

Hunting & Trapping in Virginia

July 2004-June 2005
Regulations and Information



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This booklet is for general information. Specific laws are found in the Code of Virginia or the Game Department Regulation Manual. For answers to specific questions about hunting or trapping contact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. See page 3 for the office nearest you.

About the Department

Serving the outdoor public for 88 years, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries continues to move forward with renewed vigor and an encouraging sense of accomplishment.

Thanks to the efforts of the Department's wildlife biologists and game wardens, the state boasts a deer population of nearly one million animals and the most liberal deer hunting seasons ever known in the Commonwealth. Last season hunters harvested over 200,000 deer. Turkey and bear populations are also higher than any time since people have been keeping such records.

It takes work to maintain a plentiful supply of wildlife. Multiple wildlife projects are ongoing, and hundreds of jobs happen every day that often go unnoticed. The Department maintains over 1,000 miles of road and keeps up with more than 5,000 informational signs, along with 195,000 acres of land on 34 management areas that are kept open and in good condition for public use. The Department also works cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service to help manage over one and a half million acres of wildlife habitat on national forest lands in Virginia.

A big part of Virginia's wildlife abundance results from the work of Virginia game wardens. Wardens annually check over 54,000 hunters, more than 75,000 anglers, and at least 30,000 boaters as they patrol over 3 million miles annually.

Virginia's Hunter Education program is recognized as one of the best in the nation with more than 15,000 students certified each year. Hunter Education courses are taught free of charge throughout the Commonwealth by game wardens and over 700 volunteer instructors.

All of this work to keep wildlife abundant in Virginia is paid for by the hunters and anglers themselves. The Department receives the majority of its funds from hunting and fishing licenses and boat titling and registration fees.

Be sure to buy your 2004–2005 hunting license before going afield. We wish you safe hunting.

Working Together For Our Wildlife

The Department is pleased and honored to have the support of numerous non-profit conservation organizations that are dedicated to wildlife conservation and education. Through the involvement of thousands of citizen volunteers, as well as a financial commitment to a variety of agency projects, organizations such as the ones listed below have supported wildlife conservation efforts that benefit all Virginia sportsmen and women. We encourage everyone to support these organizations and to become active participants in one or more of these groups.

Recognized for 2004-2005 are the following:

Ducks Unlimited www.ducks.org	Traditional Bowhunters of Virginia
Izaak Walton League of America www.iwla.org	Virginia Bear Hunters Association www.virginiabearhunters.org
National Wild Turkey Federation www.vanwtf.com	Virginia Bowhunters Association www.geocities.com/~vbarchers
Quail Unlimited www.qu.org	Virginia Deer Hunters Association www.virginiadeerhunters.org
Quality Deer Management www.qdma.com	Virginia Peninsula Sportsmen's Association www.vpsa.org
Ruffed Grouse Society www.ruffedgrousesociety.org	Virginia Trappers Association www.virginiatrappers.org
Safari Club International Foundation www.safariclub.org	Waterfowl USA www.waterfowlusa.org
Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia www.swmnv.com	Western Virginia Deer Hunters Association

Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

Commonwealth of Virginia

Mark R. Warner, Governor

Secretary of Natural Resources

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

William L. Woodfin, Jr. Director

Members of the Board

Daniel A. Hoffler, Chairman

Cecil T. Campbell	Richard L. Corrigan	Sherry Smith Crumley	
Charles H. Cunningham	C. Marshall Davison	Dan R. McCoy	Will McNeely
John W. Montgomery, Jr.	Richard E. Railey, Jr.	Jack T. Shoosmith	

Following are addresses and telephone numbers for each of the five regional offices and the Richmond headquarters. If you need assistance, contact the respective office.

Williamsburg - Region 1

5806 Mooretown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188
(757) 253-7072

Includes the counties of Accomack, Charles City, Essex, Gloucester, Greensville, Isle of Wight, James City, King George, King & Queen, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northampton, Northumberland, Prince George, Richmond, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland and York and the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg.



Forest - Region 2

1132 Thomas Jefferson Road
Forest, VA 24551-9223
(434) 525-7522

Includes the counties of Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Franklin, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nelson, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward and Roanoke and the cities of Petersburg, Lynchburg and Roanoke.

Marion - Region 3

1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
(276) 783-4860

Includes the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Montgomery, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe.

Verona - Region 4

517 Lee Highway
P.O. Box 996
Verona, VA 24482
(540) 248-9360

Includes the counties of Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren.

Fredericksburg - Region 5

1320 Belman Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 899-4169

Includes the counties of Albemarle, Caroline, Chesterfield, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Goochland, Greene, Hanover, Henrico, Loudoun, Louisa, Madison, Orange, Powhatan, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania and Stafford and the cities of Alexandria, Arlington, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg and Richmond.

Richmond Headquarters

P.O. Box 11104, 4010 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230-1104
804/367-1000 V/TDD

To reach Law Enforcement 24 hours, call 804-367-1258.

www.dgif.virginia.gov

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What's New For 2004-2005

Digest Format :

Our second year presenting the hunting and trapping digest in this new format also brings with it more information and a new section entitled "Hunting and Trapping Annual 2004-2005." In this section we highlight our wildlife management projects and related issues.

Deer Bag Limits:

The license year bag limit for all hunters has been increased by two deer (antlerless deer only). See page 25.

Licenses:

Legislation passed in 2004 exempts the spouses of children and grandchildren of resident or non-resident landowners from having to obtain a license to hunt, trap or fish if doing so on the landowner's property. See page 6

Legislation passed in 2004 established license fees for non-resident youth who wish to hunt in Virginia. See page 7.

New Regulation Review Process:

The Department has changed the process of setting regulations for fish and wildlife into a single review process. The first combined review is scheduled for the March, August and October 2005 Board meetings. Regulation amendments made then will take effect in July 2006. See page 63.

Tagging and Checking Procedures:

Beginning in the fall of 2004, tags on the bear, deer, turkey license (commonly known as the Big Game license) will be non-detachable. **Instead of removing a tag and placing it on the carcass, successful hunters will only have to cut out the appropriate section (notch) of the license tag prior to moving the animal.** See page 20.

Successful hunters in 2004-2005 will also have a toll free number **1-866- GOT GAME (468-4263)** available to them for checking in their deer and spring turkey kill instead of taking them to a check station. **Elk, fall turkeys and bear cannot be checked by phone.** Hunters will continue to have the option of taking their game to a check station. See page 20.

Hunters must have a check card from a check station to enter an animal in Virginia Big Game Contests. See page 30.

Hunter Education Courses

After August 1, 2004, Hunter Education Class listings will be available by calling toll free 1-866-604-1122. See page 6.

Hunting Licenses and Permits

Those Who Can Buy a Resident License Are:

- (1) persons who have been a bonafide resident of the city, county, or state for six consecutive months immediately preceding the date of application for license;
- (2) persons who have been domiciliary residents of the state for at least two months upon approval of a completed affidavit to be furnished by the Game Department;
- (3) legal voters in Virginia;
- (4) members of the armed forces if they reside in the Commonwealth and are on active duty and are stationed at military installations within, or on ships based in the Commonwealth;
- (5) students (including nonresident students boarding on campus) residing in Virginia who are enrolled in bonafide Virginia schools;
- (6) unnaturalized owners of real property in Virginia who have resided in a county for five years immediately prior to making application for a license may apply for resident licenses only in the county where they qualify.

Every person who is required to have a license must carry such license and shall show the license immediately upon demand of any officer whose duty it is to enforce the game and inland fish laws, or upon the demand of any owner or lessee, or any employee or representative of such owner or lessee, upon whose land or water such person may be hunting, trapping or fishing.

No state or county resident license to hunt, trap or fish in or on the lands or inland waters of this Commonwealth shall be deemed to be issued until the certificate printed on the reverse side of that license shall have been signed by the named licensee.

License Exceptions

All persons, except those listed below, must purchase the proper licenses before hunting or trapping.

- Resident or non-resident landowners, their spouses, their children and grandchildren and the spouses of such children and grandchildren, or the landowner's parents, resident or non-resident, do not need a license to hunt, trap or fish within the boundaries of their own lands and inland waters.
- Tenants, on the land they rent and occupy, are not required to have a license, but must have the written permission of the landowner.
- Residents, 65 years of age and over, do not need a license to hunt or trap on private property in their county of residence.
- Residents under the age of 12 are not required to obtain a license to hunt provided they are accompanied and directly supervised within sight of an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license on their person.

- Any person who is not hunting, but is aiding a disabled person to hunt when such disabled person possesses a valid Virginia Disabled Resident Lifetime hunting license or a Virginia Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime license is not required to have a license.
- Any Indian who “habitually” resides on an Indian reservation or a member of the Virginia recognized tribes who resides in the Commonwealth is not required to have a license; however, such Indian must have on his person an identification card or paper signed by the chief of his tribe, a valid tribal identification card, written confirmation through a central tribal registry, or certification from a tribal office.

Mandatory Hunter Education Requirements

The following persons are required to present a Hunter Education Certificate in order to purchase a hunting license:

- All persons who are 12–15 years of age.
- All persons 16 years of age or older who have never been issued a hunting license.

The following persons may be issued a hunting license without presenting a Hunter Education Certificate:

- Any person 16 years of age or older who presents a previously issued hunting license. *
- Any person 16 years of age or older who certifies that he or she has held a previously issued hunting license by signing the back of the license.
- Any person under the age of 12. **
- Any person who only hunts foxes with hounds while on horseback, but without firearms.
- * Virginia accepts and recognizes all states’ and countries’ hunting licenses and hunter education credentials for the purpose of complying with mandatory hunter education requirements. These may be in the form of an identification card or certificate.
- ** Youth (under the age of 12) must be accompanied and directly supervised within sight of a parent, legal guardian or an adult (designated by the parent or guardian) when hunting. The supervising adult must possess a valid Virginia hunting license.

Hunter Education

Hunter Education courses provide instruction in hunter safety, principles of conservation and sportsmanship. The courses are a minimum of 10 hours in length and cover many topics preparing new hunters to enjoy their experience in the outdoors. Courses are offered free of charge throughout the Commonwealth. To learn about courses available in your area, check the Department’s Web site or contact one of the Department’s regional offices. After August 1, 2004 you can call 1-866-604-1122 for a listing of Hunter Education classes near you. For information about obtaining a replacement certificate check the Agency’s Web site.

License Year

Licenses and permits are valid from July 1 through June 30. This period constitutes a “license year” as referred to in seasons and bag limits.

Replacement License

If a license is lost, a duplicate license must be obtained at the place where the license was originally purchased.

How to Obtain a License

There are now four ways to get your hunting license:

- **Online:** At the Department’s Web site: www.dgif.virginia.gov. Select the license(s) you want, pay with your VISA or MasterCard, and print your license(s) after you pay. There is an additional fee of \$2.00 to purchase online.
- **Telephone:** Licenses can also be purchased by phone through Bass Pro Shops by calling 1-800-986-2628. There is an additional fee of \$3.95 to purchase by phone.
- **In Person:** Sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court and hundreds of license agents located around the state. A \$.50 issuance fee will be added to each license.
- **By Mail:** Download and complete the proper form from the Department’s Web site and mail it to the address provided.

License Fees

Resident Hunting Licenses, Permits and Stamps

If you are required to buy a resident hunting license, one of the following is needed to hunt in Virginia. Other licenses, permits or stamps may also be required.

Resident License to hunt statewide (16 years or older) . . . 12.00

County or City Resident License to hunt in county or city of residence only (16 years or older) 5.00

Resident Junior License to hunt statewide (ages 12 to 15; optional for under 12 years old) 7.50

Resident Youth Combination License (under 16 years old) to hunt statewide; to hunt bear, deer, and turkey; to hunt with a bow and arrow during the archery seasons and to hunt with a muzzleloader during the muzzleloading deer seasons . . 15.00

Resident Junior Lifetime License (under age 12) to hunt statewide. No annual bear, deer, turkey license required until age 12. National Forest Stamp, State Forest Stamp, County Damage Stamp and Bonus Deer Permits, if applicable, are required in addition to this license). Available only through the Richmond office. 250.00

Resident Lifetime License to hunt (annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license). Available only through the Richmond office.

Through age 44 (hunter education course required under age 16)	250.00
Age 45–50	200.00
Age 51–55	150.00
Age 56–60	100.00
Age 61–64	50.00
Age 65 and over	10.00

Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime License to hunt and freshwater fish (available only through Richmond Office)5.00

Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Lifetime License to hunt, available only through Richmond Office; (annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this hunting license)5.00

Resident Senior Citizen (age 65 and over) Annual License to hunt (annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license)1.00

One or more of the following may be required in addition to the resident hunting license.

Resident Bear, Deer, Turkey License to hunt bear, deer and turkey statewide (age 16 years or older) required in addition to county or state hunting license, or senior citizen license or lifetime license (Not required if senior citizen's lifetime license was purchased before July 1, 1988. Not required for holders of Disabled Veterans Lifetime license.)12.00

Resident Junior Bear, Deer, Turkey License to hunt bear, deer and turkey statewide (under 16 years old) required in addition to Resident Junior Hunting License7.50

Resident Archery License to hunt statewide during the archery season12.00

Resident Muzzleloading License to hunt during the muzzleloading season12.00

Resident Bonus Deer Permit (2 antlerless tags) See page 25.12.00

Resident County Damage Stamp to hunt deer and bear in Highland and Smyth counties, in addition to other licenses, and sold only by the clerks of those counties.1.00

Nonresident Hunting Licenses, Permits and Stamps

If you are required to buy a nonresident hunting license, one of the following is needed to hunt in Virginia. Other licenses, permits, or stamps may also be required.

Nonresident License to hunt statewide (16 years or older)80.00

Nonresident 3-Day Trip License to hunt statewide. Must be 3 consecutive hunting days; no Sunday hunting; 16 years or older.40.00

Nonresident Youth License to hunt statewide (under age 12)12.00

Nonresident Youth License to hunt statewide (ages 12–15)15.00

Nonresident Youth Combination License (under 16 years old) to hunt statewide; to hunt bear, deer, and turkey; to hunt with a bow and arrow during the archery seasons and to hunt with a muzzleloader during the muzzleloading deer seasons30.00

Nonresident Lifetime License to hunt (available only through Richmond Office). Annual deer, bear, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license; 16 years or older.500.00

One or more of the following may be required in addition to the nonresident hunting license.

Nonresident Bear, Deer, Turkey License to hunt bear, deer and turkey statewide, required in addition to hunting license or lifetime license

Age 16 years or older	60.00
Age 12–15 years old	15.00
Under 12 years old	12.00

Nonresident Archery License to hunt statewide during archery season25.00

Nonresident Muzzleloading License to hunt during the muzzleloading season25.00

Nonresident Shooting Preserve (to hunt within the boundaries of a licensed shooting preserve, in lieu of other required licenses)12.00

Nonresident Bonus Deer Permit (2 antlerless tags) See page 25.25.00

Fees continued on pg. 8

Archery/Muzzleloading License Requirements

- If hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow (disabled persons only) for any game species which may legally be taken with such archery tackle during any archery season you must have a state or county hunting license, an archery license, and all other applicable licenses or permits.
- If hunting with a muzzleloading firearm for any game species which may legally be taken with a muzzleloading firearm during any muzzleloading deer season you must have a state or county hunting license, a muzzleloading license, and all other applicable licenses or permits.

Nonresident Damage Stamp to hunt deer and bear in Highland and Smyth counties, in addition to other licenses, and sold only by the clerks of those counties.5.00

Trapping Licenses

If you are required to buy a trapping license, one of the following is needed to trap in Virginia. Other licenses or permits may also be required.

County or City Resident to trap in county or city of residence10.00

Resident License to trap statewide35.00

Resident Senior Citizen License (age 65 and over) to trap1.00

Resident Senior Citizen Lifetime License (age 65 or over) to trap (available only through Richmond Office)10.00

Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime License to trap (available only through Richmond Office)5.00

Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Lifetime license to trap (available only through Richmond Office)5.00

Nonresident License to trap (available only through Richmond Office)150.00

Miscellaneous Permits and Stamps

Permits:

National Forest Permit to hunt and trap within National Forests. Not required of residents under the age of 16 to trap; residents 65 and older who possess a valid license to hunt or trap; or holders of complimentary license to hunt.3.00

State Forest Permit to hunt or trap on Appomattox-Buckingham, Cumberland, Prince Edward and Sandy Point State Forests. Sold by the Dept. of Forestry and local license agents near the Forests. See page 13.10.00

Stamps:

Federal Migratory Bird Stamp to take migratory waterfowl, required of persons 16 years of age and over in addition to hunting license and sold at U.S. Post Offices or online at www.duck-stamp.com15.00

Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Voluntary; available by contacting Ducks Unlimited at (757) 220-3144, fax at (757) 220-13825.00

Waterfowl/Migratory Game Birds

Migratory game birds (doves, ducks, brant, geese, tundra swan, coot, gallinules, rails, snipe and woodcock) may only be taken in accordance with supplementary regulations. These seasons are set in June and August and publications are available in August and September.

Definitions

Hunting and Trapping

The act of or the attempted act of taking, hunting, trapping, pursuing, chasing, shooting, snaring or netting birds or animals, and assisting any person who is doing the same, regardless of whether birds or animals are actually taken. When hunting and trapping is allowed, reference is made to such acts as being conducted by lawful means and in a lawful manner.

Game and Furbearer Species

Nonmigratory game birds (grouse, pheasant, bobwhite quail and turkey), game animals (bear, bobcat, deer, fox, rabbit, raccoon and squirrel), and furbearing animals (beaver, bobcat, fox, mink, muskrat, otter, opossum, raccoon, skunk and weasel) may only be taken in accordance with state laws and Department regulations, many of which are summarized in this digest.

Nuisance Species

The following animals: house mouse, Norway rat, black rat, coyote, groundhog, nutria, feral hog, European starling, English sparrow and pigeon (rock dove) are designated as nuisance species and may be taken at any time (except on Sunday) by use of a firearm or other weapon and on some public lands during certain time periods, see National Forest–Game Department Regulations page 12.

Other Wildlife

It is unlawful to take, possess, transport or sell all other wildlife species not classified as game, furbearer or nuisance, unless otherwise specifically permitted by law or regulation.

A hunting license is required to take any wild animal or bird (except as explained under hunting licenses and permits). Persons taking frogs or turtles must have an appropriate license whether by hunting (gigging), trapping or angling. Bullfrogs may be taken by bow and arrow and from private waters by firearms no larger than .22 caliber rimfire.

Dismal Swamp Line

Beginning at a point on Rt. 10 where it intersects the Isle of Wight County line, then along this highway to its intersection with the corporate limits of Suffolk, then through Suffolk to its intersection with Rt. 642 (White Marsh Road) and then along this highway in a southwest direction to Rt. 604 (Desert Road), and then southerly along this highway to the North Carolina state line.

West & East of Blue Ridge

The following counties and cities and towns within are considered “west of the Blue Ridge.” If not listed here, they are considered “east of the Blue Ridge.” Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Carroll, Clarke, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Frederick, Giles, Grayson, Highland, Lee, Montgomery, Page, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Wise and Wythe.

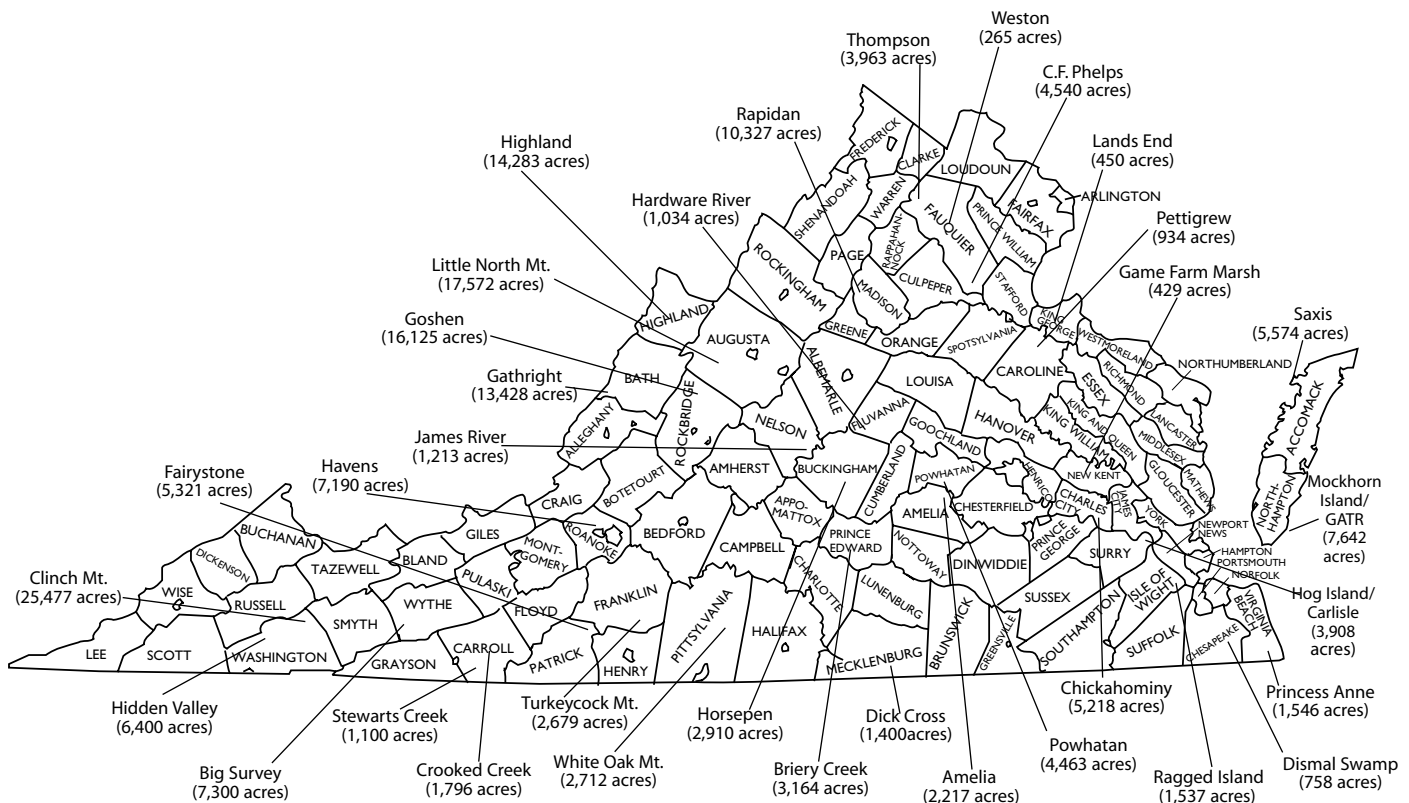
Public Hunting Lands

Department Wildlife Management Areas

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries maintains 34 management areas totaling 195,000 acres for the benefit of all citizens for a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. Thirty-two management areas are open for some type of hunting. These lands are purchased and maintained with hunting, fishing and trapping license fees and with Wildlife Restoration Funds. We encourage the public to utilize our land and enjoy the bountiful natural resources found on each area. The map below and chart on page 10 provides a guide on the location and activities associated with each of the Department's wildlife management areas. For more detailed information on each area and an area map visit the Department's Web site.



Michelle Lehner



Recreational Opportunities on WMAs

©Dwight Dyke



	Bear	Deer	Dove Field	Grouse	Quail	Rabbit	Raccoon	Squirrel	Turkey	Waterfowl	Trapping	Trout	Warm Water Fishing	Salt Water Fishing	Developed Camping	Primitive Camping	Field Trials	Hiking	Birding/Wildlife Trail	Boat Ramp	Ranges (see page 52)
Amelia		✓	✓		Q	Q	✓	✓	✓	✓	P		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Big Survey	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		✓	✓		
Briery Creek		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	P		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Chickahominy		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		Z	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clinch Mt	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		Z	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Crooked Creek		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Dick Cross		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Q	P		✓		Z	✓	✓	✓	✓	Z	
Dismal Swamp	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				Z			✓			
Fairystone Farm		✓					✓	✓	✓		✓		Z		Z	✓		✓	✓	Z	
Game Farm Marsh										✓	✓		✓		Z					Z	
Gathright	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		Z	✓		✓	✓		✓
Goshen	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	Z	
Hardware River		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Havens	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		✓	✓		
Hidden Valley	✓						✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Highland	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Hog Island		Q	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Q/M	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	Z	
Horsepen Lake		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		P		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
James River	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	P		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Lands End (no hunting)																			✓		
Little North Mountain	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	Z	
Mockhorn Island		A/Q								✓	✓			✓	Z	✓		✓	✓	Z	
Pettigrew		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Phelps	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Powhatan		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	P		✓		Z	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Princess Anne										Q/M									✓	✓	
Ragged Island		✓					✓			✓	✓			✓					✓	Z	
Rapidan	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Saxis		✓								✓	✓			✓					✓	Z	
Stewarts Creek	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Thompson	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Turkeycock Mt.		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓							✓		✓			
Weston (no hunting)													✓			✓		✓	✓		
White Oak Mt.		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		P		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

A - Archery M - Managed Hunts N - Nearby P - Special Permit or Special Rules Apply Q - Quota

Rules For Wildlife Management Areas

General

- Activities involving groups of more than 12 persons require written authorization from the Department.
- Display or consumption of alcoholic beverages in public is prohibited.
- Commercial activities are prohibited except by written authorization from the Department.

Hunting & Trapping

Please refer to the current hunting and trapping seasons found in this digest. Special seasons and bag limits that apply to a wildlife management area will be posted at the entrance.

Firearms

- It is unlawful to have in possession or in a vehicle a bow or gun which is not unloaded and cased or dismantled except when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasants, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel or turkey; and additionally, migratory game birds on Department owned lands east of the Blue Ridge; or by permit issued by the Department; or by concealed handgun permit issued by a Circuit Court.
- It is unlawful to possess or transport a loaded gun in or on any vehicle at any time on a WMA.
- Target shooting is permitted on designated ranges only.

Fishing, Boating and Swimming

Please refer to the current Virginia Freshwater Fishing Regulations digest and posted signs for any special creel and size restrictions that may apply to WMA.

- It is unlawful to use boats propelled by gasoline motors, sail or by mechanically operated recreational paddle wheel, unless otherwise posted.
- Swimming is prohibited. Anglers actively engaged in fishing, hunters actively engaged in hunting, and trappers lawfully trapping may wade in public fishing lakes.
- It is unlawful to use trotlines on public fishing lakes.

Camping/Fires

- Primitive camping is permitted for up to 14 consecutive days when occupants are engaged in authorized activities. No more than 3 camping units are permitted per site.
- Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any boat ramp or fishing lake or at other specific sites as posted.
- It is unlawful to leave a campfire unattended. From February 15 to April 30 campfires are allowed only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight.

Dogs

- It is lawful to chase with dogs or train dogs on Department-owned lands only during authorized hunting, chase or training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times outside of open hunting, chase, or training seasons.

Horseback/Bicycle Riding and Hiking

- Horseback and bicycle riding are welcome on all roads and trails unless otherwise posted. Please avoid riding in cultivated or planted fields, or on eroded areas. Riders and cyclists should be mindful of all open hunting seasons.
- Hiking is welcome. Hikers should be mindful of all open hunting seasons.
- Please avoid engaging in these activities when they may interfere with hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers.
- Blaze orange hat or clothing is recommended for non-hunters during hunting seasons.

Vehicles

- Motor vehicles are prohibited behind barricades or gates designed to prevent entry or within areas otherwise posted to prohibit motor vehicles.
- Operation of ATVs and other unlicensed motor vehicles is prohibited.
- Cross-country motor vehicle travel (off-road travel) is prohibited.
- Motor vehicles, campers, and trailers may be parked on Department-owned lands only when the owners/responsible party are engaged in authorized activities.

Resource and Property Damage

- It is unlawful to construct or occupy any permanent structure (including a permanently-affixed tree stand) except by Department permit.
- It is unlawful to cut, mutilate, destroy or remove vegetation, or to remove minerals, artifacts or other property from the area. Metal detecting/artifact hunting is prohibited.
- It is unlawful to damage, deface, or remove any building, gate, fence, sign or other property.

Other uses are allowed only by written authorization from the Department or by posted rules.

National Forests

Parking fees are required only on the following National Forest Recreation Areas: Todd Lake, Coles Point, Longdale, Fortney Branch, Sherando Lake, Bolar Mountain, Bolar Flat, Cascades, High Knob, Bark Camp Lake, Hanging Rock, Cave Mountain Lake, Beartree, Hurricane, Grindstone, Raven Cliff, Fox Creek, Raccoon Branch, Roaring Run and Dark Horse Hollow. Seasonal day use passes are available for \$25.00. A 50% discount is available for holders of Golden Age and Golden Access Passports. For more information please call the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests' Supervisor's Office at (540) 265-5100 or contact the appropriate ranger district at:

Clinch: (276) 328-2931
Deerfield: (540) 885-8028
Dry River: (540) 432-0187
Glenwood-Pedlar: (540) 291-2189
James River: (540) 962-2214
Lee: (540) 984-4101
Mount Rogers National Recreation Area:
(276) 783-5196
New Castle: (540) 864-5195
New River Valley
Blacksburg Unit: (540) 552-4641
Wythe Unit: (276) 228-5551
Warm Springs: (540) 839-2521

Regulations Specific to National Forest and Game Department Lands

It shall be unlawful to have in possession a bow or gun which is not unloaded and cased or dismantled on all National Forest lands statewide, or on Department-owned lands and on lands managed by the Department under cooperative agreement in counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains except during the period when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey or waterfowl on these lands; and on Department-owned lands and on lands managed by the Department under cooperative agreement in counties east of the Blue Ridge Mountains except during the period when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey, waterfowl or migratory game birds on these lands.

Except as provided by special concealed handgun permit, it shall be unlawful to possess or transport a loaded gun in or on any vehicle at any time on National Forest lands or Department-owned lands. "Loaded gun" is defined as a firearm in which ammunition is chambered or loaded in the magazine or clip, when such magazine or clip is found engaged or partially engaged in a firearm. The definition of a loaded muzzleloading gun will include a gun which is capped or has a charged pan.

The word "possession" shall include, but not be limited to, having any bow or firearm in or on one's person, vehicle or conveyance.

It is unlawful to chase with a dog or train dogs on National Forest lands or Department-owned lands except during author-

ized hunting, chase or training seasons that specifically permit these activities on these lands.

Access Roads

Hunter access roads on Department lands seasonally open to motor vehicles will be open (weather permitting) from the 1st Saturday in October to 2nd Saturday in February and 1st Saturday in April to 3rd Saturday in May.

Opening and closing dates of hunter access roads on National Forest Lands may vary by ranger district. Opening and closing dates are determined by management considerations for the areas accessed by these roads. Contact the local ranger district listed at left for opening and closing dates on specific roads.

Any motor driven vehicle using roads normally open to motor vehicles on Department and National Forest lands shall conform with all state laws for highway travel. No cross country travel is permitted. All terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-road vehicle (ORV) travel is permitted only on designated National Forest roads and trails.

Foot travel is invited on roads closed to motor vehicles.

Camping Policy

Primitive camping is permitted on Department-owned lands, except as otherwise posted. Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any Department-owned or controlled boat ramp or fishing lake. Camping on Department-owned lands is not to exceed 14 consecutive days. Only 3 camping units permitted per site.

On the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests camping for more than 21 consecutive days without having terminated Forest occupancy for a minimum of 10 days within a 31-day time period is prohibited.

Structures

It is unlawful to construct, maintain or occupy any permanent structure, except by permit, on Department-owned lands and National Forest lands.

It is unlawful to maintain any temporary dwelling on Department-owned land for more than 14 consecutive days. Persons constructing or occupying such structures are responsible for complete removal of temporary structures.

Tree Stands

It is unlawful to construct, maintain or occupy any permanent tree stand on Department-owned lands, National Forest lands and on Department of Conservation and Recreation-owned or controlled lands. Portable tree stands, which are not permanently affixed, may be used. **Use of a safety harness while hunting from tree stands is strongly recommended.**

Unauthorized Feeding

It is unlawful to place or direct the placement of, deposit, distribute, or scatter food or salt capable of attracting or being eaten by bear, deer, or turkey on National Forest lands and Department-owned lands. This regulation does not prohibit the proper disposal of food in trash receptacles provided by the National Forest or by the Department.

Shooting Preserves

Pen-raised game birds may be taken on licensed shooting preserves from September 1 through April 30. A list of operated shooting preserves open to the public may be obtained from the Permits Section at the Department's Richmond office (804-367-1000). A state resident hunting pen-raised game birds on a licensed shooting preserve is required to have either a state or county resident hunting license. A nonresident is required to have either a state nonresident license (\$80.00) or a special nonresident shooting preserve license (\$12.00) which is valid only within the boundaries of licensed shooting preserves.

Mason Neck/Occoquan: (703) 490-4979
Presquile: (804) 333-1470
Rappahannock River Valley: (804) 333-1470

State Forests

Hunting is allowed on Appomattox-Buckingham and Prince Edward State Forests (contact 434-983-2175), Cumberland State Forest (contact 804-492-4121) and on Sandy Point State Forest (contact 804-492-4121). A State Forest Hunting Permit is required and may be purchased from local license agents or the Department of Forestry. No motorized vehicles on gated roads and trails (opened or closed) are permitted without written authorization.

State Parks

Hunting is allowed in designated areas of Pocahontas, Occaneechee, Fairystone, Grayson Highlands and Hungry Mother State Parks. Controlled hunts are held at Caledon Natural Area, Chippokes, False Cape, James River, Kiptopeake, Mason Neck, Smith Mountain Lake and York River State Parks. Contact the parks for more information. Loaded weapons are not allowed in state parks outside designated areas.

Caledon: (540) 663-3861
Chippokes: (757) 294-3625
Fairystone: (276) 930-2424
False Cape: (757) 426-7128
Grayson Highlands: (276) 579-7092
Hungry Mother: (276) 781-7400
James River: (434) 933-4355
Kiptopeake: (757) 331-2267
Mason Neck: (703) 339-2385
Occaneechee: (434) 374-2210
Pocahontas: (804) 796-4255
Smith Mountain Lake: (540) 297-6066
York River: (757) 566-3036
For Controlled Hunt Reservations: 800-933-7275

Federal Refuges

Hunting is allowed on the following National Wildlife Refuges in Virginia. For more information, contact the appropriate refuge manager at:

Back Bay: (757) 721-2412
Chincoteague: (757) 336-6122
Dismal Swamp: (757) 986-3705
Eastern Shore: (757) 331-2760
James River: (804) 333-1470

Military Areas

Fort A.P. Hill

Deer: **November 13–December 31**. One deer per day. Either sex deer hunting on **November 20, 26, 27, December 4, 11, 18, 23**. Closed Christmas and New Year's Day. Open half day on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Archery Season: **October 2–November 12**.

Muzzleloading Season: **October 30 - November 12**.

General Firearms: **November 13–December 31**.

All persons 12 years of age and older must present a hunter education certificate in order to purchase an A.P. Hill hunting permit.

Contact Fort A.P. Hill Game Check Station at (804) 633-8244 for details about the hunter education requirement, seasons, restrictions and bag limits for all other game species.

Fort Pickett

Deer: **November 13–January 1**. Two per day, four per year, either-sex deer hunting on **November 20, 27, December 31 and January 1**.

Quail hunting permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only.

Contact the Ft. Pickett Game Check Station at (434) 292-2618 for further details about seasons and special restrictions.

Quantico Marine Reservation

Deer: **November 13–December 31**. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Open half day on Thanksgiving Day.

Archery Season: **October 2–November 12**.

No Muzzleloading Season.

Consult Quantico Game Check Station for daily and seasonal bag limits, other seasons and further details, at (703) 784-5523 or www.quantico.usmc.mil/g5/nrea/fwa/hunting.htm.

Fort Belvoir

Archery Only: qualification required.

Deer: **September 18, 2004–March 26, 2005**.

Spring Gobbler: **April 9–May 14, 2005**.

Contact Outdoor Recreation staff at (703) 805-3688 for further details.

National Parks

Hunting is prohibited in all National Parks in Virginia. Hunters may obtain hunter parking access permits from the Blue Ridge Parkway National Park Service to park at designated areas along the Blue Ridge Parkway and cross national park lands (weapons must be unloaded and cased) to hunt on National Forest lands. For further information call (540) 377-2377.

General Hunting Regulations

Blaze Orange Requirements

- When hunting any game species during the firearms deer season, every hunter or person accompanying a hunter shall wear a blaze orange hat or blaze orange upper body clothing that is visible from 360 degrees or display at least 100 square inches of solid blaze orange material at shoulder level within body reach and visible from 360 degrees. Hats may have a bill or brim color or design other than solid blaze orange. Hats shall not be in "camo" style, since the latter is designated to prevent visibility. A logo, which does not detract from visibility, may be worn on a blaze orange hat.
- Blaze orange is not required during the muzzleloading deer season(s) or by waterfowl hunters, individuals participating in hunting dog field trials and fox hunters on horseback without firearms.

Hunting Hours

(See page 56 for sunrise-sunset timetable.)

- One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for nonmigratory birds and game animals except during spring gobbler season.
- One-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon, during spring gobbler season except the last 12 days the hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.
- Bobcat, foxes, raccoons, and opossums may be hunted by day or night during authorized seasons.
- Migratory game birds, waterfowl, and special resident goose (see special pamphlets for hunting these species).
- Nuisance species may be taken day or night.

Hunting With Dogs:

- Dogs may be used to pursue wild birds and animals during hunting seasons where not prohibited.
- When the chase begins on other lands, fox hunters and coon hunters may follow their dogs on prohibited lands, and hunters of all other game, when the chase begins on other lands, may go upon prohibited lands to retrieve their dogs, but may not carry firearms or bows and arrows on their persons or hunt any game while thereon. The use of vehicles to retrieve dogs on prohibited lands shall be allowed only with the permission of the landowner or his agent.



illustration by Luther Trower

Training Dogs

The training of dogs on live wild animals is considered hunting and is unlawful during the closed season.

- You must have a valid hunting license while training dogs on live wild animals.
- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and non-migratory game birds on private lands and Quantico Marine Reservation. Participants shall have no weapons other than starter pistols in their possession and no wild animals shall be taken. Weapons may be in possession when training dogs on captive raised and properly marked mallards and pigeons so that they may be immediately shot or recovered, except on Sunday.
- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and non-migratory game birds on Ft. A.P. Hill from September 1–February 28. Participants may only have starter pistols in their possession. No captive reared birds may be released.
- You may train dogs on National Forest or Department-owned lands only during authorized training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
- You may train dogs on quail on designated portions of the Amelia Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Chester F. Phelps WMA, Chickahominy WMA (Closed for the 2004–2005 season. See Department Web site.) and Dick Cross WMA from September 1 to the day prior to the opening date of the quail hunting season, both dates inclusive. No weapons other than starter pistols may be in possession and pen-raised birds may not be released.
- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and non-migratory game birds on the Weston WMA from September 1 thru March 31, both dates inclusive. Participants in this dog training season shall have no weapons other than starter pistols in their possession, shall not release pen-raised birds, and must comply with all regulations and laws pertaining to hunting. No game shall be taken.

Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment

- Shotguns not larger than 10 gauge.
- Shotgun magazines must be plugged with a plug that cannot be removed from the loading end so the gun will hold a total of no more than three shells.
- Shotgun barrels must be at least 18 inches long.
- Shotguns with rifled barrels are permitted in areas where slugs may be used (see Local Firearms Ordinances pg. 17).
- No restrictions on shot size except for spring gobbler season when it is unlawful to have any shot in possession larger than number 2 fine shot while hunting.
- Rifles used for deer or bear must be .23 caliber or larger.

- Rifles may be used for taking wild animals and birds, except migratory game birds and waterfowl, and where prohibited by local ordinances (see Local Firearms Ordinances pg. 17).
- Rifles, pistols, and revolvers may be used for hunting crows, except where prohibited by local ordinances (see Local Firearms Ordinances pg. 17).
- Pistols and revolvers firing .22 caliber rimfire ammunition and muzzleloading pistols may be used for small game where .22 rifles are permitted (see Local Firearms Ordinances pg. 17).
- Muzzleloading shotguns, muzzleloading rifles or archery tackle may be used to hunt during the firearms seasons where not prohibited (see Local Firearms Ordinances pg. 17 and Archery/Muzzleloading License Requirements pg. 7).
- All game birds and animals, except deer, may be hunted with shotguns from boats. Hunters must have permission from the landowner to hunt/retrieve game located on private land.
- Pistols and revolvers are lawful for deer and bear hunting only in those counties where hunting deer and bear with rifles is lawful. Cartridges used must be .23 caliber or larger and have a manufacturer's rating of 350 foot-pounds muzzle energy or more.
- **Concealed handguns may be in the possession of hunters during the archery and muzzleloading seasons when they also possess a valid concealed handgun permit. Such handguns may not be used to shoot wild animals during these seasons.**
- Archery tackle (includes longbow, recurve, and compound bows) may be used for hunting wild birds and animals. (See Archery/Muzzleloading License Requirements pg. 7).
- Crossbows may be used statewide by disabled persons who meet criteria established by the Department and attested to by a licensed physician on a standardized form provided by the Department (see Department's Web site). The form must be in the individual's possession while hunting. Disabled hunters possessing this form are allowed to participate in hunting seasons under the same rules, regulations, laws and conditions that apply to hunters using standard archery equipment. A crossbow is defined as any bow that can be mechanically held in the drawn or cocked position.

Unlawful Methods

Penalties may include hunting license revocation for one year to life and forfeiture of firearms.

A person found guilty of a violation a second time within three years of a previous conviction shall have their license revoked by the court trying the case.

It is unlawful to:

- Hunt wild birds and wild animals with firearms or other weapons on Sunday, except on licensed shooting preserves. Raccoon hunters may hunt until 2:00 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Shooting From the Road is Illegal

Shooting at wildlife from a vehicle and/or from or across a public road is illegal. Penalties include: fines, license revocation and confiscation of firearms.

- Discharge a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow in or across or within the right-of-way of any road.
- Cast a light attached to a vehicle or from a vehicle beyond a roadway upon places used by deer without written permission of the landowner or at anytime while in the possession of a rifle, shotgun, pistol, crossbow, bow and arrow, or spear-gun.
- Handle any firearm in a reckless manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.
- Destroy, mutilate, or take down "posted" signs or to litter.
- Hunt adjacent to forest fires.
- Willfully and intentionally impede the lawful hunting or trapping of wild birds or wild animals.
- Kill or cripple and knowingly allow any non-migratory game bird or game animal to be wasted without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and retain it in possession.
- Hunt (under age 12) without being accompanied and directly supervised by a licensed parent, guardian, or other adult designated by the parent or guardian. The term "directly supervised" means the youth hunter must be within sight of the person supervising.
- Shoot a rifle or pistol at wild birds or animals on or over the public inland waters of the state.
- Carry a loaded rifle or pistol on a boat or other floating device on public inland waters for hunting wild birds or animals.
- Shoot waterfowl or migratory game birds from a boat being propelled by a motor.
- Hunt or trap on another's land without the landowner's permission. (See Hunting on Private Property pg. 16)
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicants or narcotic drugs.
- Molest eggs, nest, den or young of any wild bird or animal, except nuisance species, at any time without a permit as required by law.
- Occupy any baited blind or other baited place for the purpose of taking or attempting to take any wild game bird or wild game animal or to put out bait or salt for the purpose of taking or killing any wild game bird or wild game animal, except for the purpose of trapping furbearing animals.
- Chase with dogs or hunt with dogs or to attempt to chase or hunt with dogs any wild animal from a baited site or to train

dogs on any wild animal from a baited site. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful to place, distribute or maintain bait or salt for any wild animal for the purpose of chasing with dogs, hunting with dogs or the training of dogs. Bait shall mean any food, grain, or other consumable substance that could serve as a lure or attractant; however, crops grown for normal or accepted agriculture or wildlife management purposes shall not be considered as bait. A baited site will be considered to be baited for 30 days following the complete removal of all such bait or salt.

- Shoot or attempt to take any wild bird or animal from any vehicle, except as otherwise provided by law.
- Exceed the bag limit or possess over the daily limit of any wild bird or animal while in the forests, fields, or waters of this state.
- Hunt or attempt to kill or trap any species of wild bird or wild animal after having obtained the daily bag or season limit during such day or season. However, any properly licensed person, or a person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such daily bag or season limit while hunting may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs or conducting drives if the weapon in his possession is an unloaded firearm, a bow without a nocked arrow or an unloaded crossbow. Any properly licensed person, or person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such season limit prior to commencement of the hunt may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs, or conducting drives, provided he does not have a firearm, bow or crossbow in his possession.
- Use live birds or animals to decoy or call game.
- Kill or attempt to kill any deer while in a boat or other type of watercraft.
- Hold in captivity any live wild birds or wild animals outside the limits allowed by regulations without a permit.
- Alter, change, borrow or lend a hunting license or permit.
- Use vehicles or possess firearms while retrieving dogs on private lands without permission of the landowner.
- Hunt with arrows to which any drug, chemical or toxic substance has been added or explosive-head arrows.
- Possess or transport any wild bird or wild animal or the carcass or the parts thereof, unless specifically allowed and only in accordance with regulations.
- Use a crossbow, except by persons with certain permanent disabilities (see General Hunting Regulations pg. 15).
- Hunt wild birds and wild animals with fully automatic firearms, (i.e. machine guns).
- Sell or purchase any wild bird or wild animal carcass or parts thereof, except as specifically permitted by law.
- Virginia law specifies that it shall be unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a felony to knowingly and intentionally possess or transport any firearm. A muzzleloading

firearm is considered a firearm under Virginia law. Any person prohibited from possessing, transporting, or carrying a firearm under this law may petition the circuit court of the jurisdiction in which he resides for a permit to possess or carry a firearm.

- Intentionally cripple or otherwise harm any game animal for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs. Upon treeing, baying, or otherwise containing an animal in a manner that offers the animal no avenue of escape, the person or the hunting party shall either 1) harvest the animal if within a legal take season and by using lawful methods of take or 2) terminate the chase by retrieving the dogs and allowing the animal freedom to escape for the remainder of the same calendar day.
- Dislodge an animal from a tree for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs.
- Use radio tracking equipment, except on dogs or on raptors permitted by a falconry permit, to aid in the chase, harvest or capture of wildlife.

Hunting on Private Property

- It is unlawful to hunt on private property without the permission of the landowner.
- Hunters must have permission of the landowner to track or retrieve wounded game on private property.

Posted Property:

It is unlawful to hunt on posted property without written permission of the landowner and is punishable by a fine of up to \$2500 and/or 12 months in jail.

Landowners may post their property by any of the following methods:

- Using a paint mark of aluminum color paint consisting of a vertical line at least two inches in width and at least eight inches in length, no less than three feet and not more than six feet from the ground or normal water surface and visible when approaching the property.
- Signs which specifically prohibit hunting, fishing or trespassing on the property.

Property not posted:

It is unlawful to hunt any unposted property without permission of the landowner and is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Regulations

No ATV shall be operated:

- On any public highway, or other public property, except as authorized by proper authorities or to the extent necessary to cross a public highway by the most direct route.
- By any person under the age of 16, except that children between the ages of 12 and 16 may operate ATVs powered by engines of no less than 70 nor more than 90 cubic centimeters displacement.
- By any person unless he is wearing a protective helmet of a type approved by the Superintendent of State Police for use by motorcycle operators.
- On another person's property without the written consent of the owner of the property or as explicitly authorized by law.
- With a passenger at any time, unless vehicle is designed and equipped to be operated with more than one rider.
- The above does not apply to members of the household or employees of the owner or lessee of private property on which the ATV is operated.

Local Firearms Ordinances, Laws and Regulations

The following counties and cities have regulations concerning the use and transportation of firearms. The number or numbers following that county name indicate the regulations listed below for that particular county. In addition, **certain counties have ordinances other than those listed**, primarily pertaining to possession of firearms near parks or schools, hunting or discharging firearms near populated areas or buildings and age limitations for possession of loaded firearms on public roads. If a locality is not listed, state firearms restrictions apply (see Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment on page 14).

Accomack 43	Floyd 18	Lunenburg 17	Richmond 6, 7, 66, 67
Albemarle 16, 54	Franklin 26	Madison 22, 25, 54	Richmond (city) 54
Amelia 15	Gloucester 14	Mecklenburg 27	Roanoke 25, 54
Amherst 18	Goochland 2, 9, 17, 23	Middlesex 26	Rockbridge 54
Arlington 59	Greensville 15, 21, 22	Nelson 22	Southampton 3, 8, 19, 41, 42
Buckingham 2, 12	Halifax 2, 7, 33, 38, 48, 61	New Kent 8, 12, 25, 54	Stafford 18, 54
Caroline 6, 17	Hampton (city) 31, 45	Newport News 1	Suffolk 18, 44
Campbell 11	Hanover 7, 46, 53	Northampton 7, 53	Surry 7, 53, 54
Charles City 17, 24	Isle of Wight 8, 12, 35	Northumberland 9, 17, 26, 42, 54	Sussex 7, 48, 73
Chesapeake 29, 30, 46	James City 40, 54	Orange 18, 22, 34	Virginia Beach 2, 7, 18, 54, 56, 57, 58
Chesterfield 7, 14, 22, 37, 54, 70	King George 6, 17, 22, 26, 54	Petersburg 54	Warren 54
Clarke 25, 54	King and Queen 39, 42	Pittsylvania 26	Westmoreland 9, 24, 50
Culpeper 18, 22, 54	King William 10, 17, 18, 28	Poquoson (city) 68, 69, 71, 72	Williamsburg 1, 54
Cumberland 17, 27, 42, 60	Lancaster 6, 12, 26	Prince George 7, 9, 32, 42	York 46, 47
Danville 54	Loudoun 22, 54, 62, 63, 64, 65	Prince William 2, 9, 12, 18	
Dinwiddie 12, 13, 42	Louisa 4, 9, 17, 27	Rappahannock 18	
Essex 7, 42, 49			
Fairfax 2, 25, 45			
Fauquier 14, 18, 22, 36, 37, 54			

1. No discharge of firearms except on approved ranges.
2. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting.
3. Unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading shotgun loaded with slugs or sabot slugs.
4. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting except groundhogs.
6. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting except groundhogs outside of the regular hunting season.

7. No rifles for deer hunting.
8. No rifles for big game hunting.
9. No hunting with shotguns loaded with slugs.
10. No hunting of big game with shotguns loaded with slugs.
11. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a firearm within the right-of-way of any primary or secondary highway.
12. It is lawful to use muzzleloading rifles for game animals in the regular hunting season.
13. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles only from stands elevated 10 feet.
14. It is unlawful to hunt from the road with firearms.
15. It is unlawful to hunt with firearms from the road and within 10 feet of the ditch bank.
16. It is unlawful to hunt within 50 feet of the road.
17. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during any authorized deer season where firearms are permitted.
18. It is unlawful to hunt with a firearm within 100 yds. of a road.
19. It is unlawful to transport, possess or carry a loaded rifle in any vehicle while on the road from October 1 through February 15.
21. It is unlawful to transport or possess a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle on the road from October 1 through Feb. 15.
22. It is unlawful to possess a loaded firearm on the road except when permission to hunt is obtained from landowners on each side.
23. It is unlawful to transport or possess loaded shotgun or loaded rifle on the road from sundown to sunrise.
24. No rifles over 22 caliber for hunting except for groundhogs between March 1 and August 31.
25. No hunting with firearms of game species from within 100 yds. of a road.
26. No hunting with firearms of any game animal from the road right of way.
27. No hunting with firearms from the road including ditch to ditch.
28. No hunting with a rifle larger than .22 or shotgun slugs during the deer season.
29. When 100 yds. from a road and elevated from a stand 15 ft. above ground a rifle may be used to hunt big game east of the Dismal Swamp line.
30. It is unlawful to carry a loaded firearm on the road or on the right-of-way.
31. All hunting within the City of Hampton is prohibited, with the exception of shotgun hunting from a licensed blind. No shot larger than 00 buckshot may be used, and no shot shall be discharged landward within 500 feet of the shoreline.
32. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles only from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground; however,

this requirement shall be expressly inapplicable to all legally handicapped persons.

33. The use of a muzzleloading rifle shall be permitted during the special early muzzleloading season and from the opening day of the state's prescribed regular firearm season for deer hunting through and including the second Saturday of the said season.
34. It is unlawful to transport or possess a loaded shotgun or rifle in a vehicle on a road during open deer season.
35. It shall be unlawful to possess outside of a vehicle, or shoot or hunt with a rifle, muzzleloader, pistol, or shotgun loaded with slugs, or to possess shotgun slugs on Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area in Isle of Wight County. In addition, it shall be unlawful to discharge any firearm within 100 yards of the boardwalk or nature trail on Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area.
36. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm from or across any sidewalk, highway or on public land.
37. It is unlawful for minors to carry firearms on public highways or public lands unless accompanied by certain adults.
38. It shall be unlawful to use any ammunition larger than .22 rimfire while hunting, except rifles up to .25 may be used to hunt groundhogs from March 1 to September 1 with written permission from the landowner.
39. It shall be lawful to use muzzleloading rifles for deer and squirrels during the regular seasons.
40. It shall be unlawful to discharge a rifle larger than .22 caliber, a muzzleloader larger than .36 caliber, or a shotgun loaded with slugs except from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground, except for groundhogs in certain areas between March 1 and September 1.
41. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle at any time.
42. It shall be unlawful to use a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire except that groundhogs may be hunted with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire between March 1 and August 31.
43. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a firearm on or within 50 feet of the center of any primary and secondary highway.
44. **East of the Dismal Swamp line** (see page 8 for definition of line) Rifles, including muzzleloading rifles, are permitted for big game hunting when used from stands elevated 15 feet above the ground (except legally handicapped hunters are exempt from tree stand requirements); no special early or late muzzleloader seasons in effect.
West of the Dismal Swamp line (see page 8 for definition of line) No rifles for big game hunting. However, when hunting from a stand 10 feet above the ground (except legally handicapped hunters are exempt from tree stand requirements) muzzleloading rifles are lawful for game species during all open seasons, including special muzzleloading deer seasons.
45. All rifles, pistols, or shotguns loaded with slugs prohibited for any hunting.

46. Discharging firearms or air-operated or gas-operated weapons prohibited within certain areas: check local county/city ordinances.
47. No discharge of rifles larger than .22 except on approved ranges.
48. Muzzleloading rifles permitted during the special muzzleloading season.
49. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during any authorized firearms season for the hunting of game animals except for the hunting of turkeys during the spring gobbler season.
50. Shotguns loaded with slugs and muzzleloading rifles may be used for big game hunting.
51. It shall be unlawful to use a rifle larger than .22 rimfire except that groundhogs may be hunted with a rifle of larger caliber.
52. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles during the special muzzleloading season.
53. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles.
54. It is unlawful to transport, possess, or carry a loaded rifle or shotgun in any vehicle on any public street, road or highway.
56. No discharge of firearms across or within 150 yards of any building, dwelling, street, sidewalk, alley, roadway, public land, or public place.
57. No discharge of firearms north or west of a line from the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach boundary, thence northwardly along North Landing Road; thence eastwardly along Indian River Road; thence northeastwardly along New Bridge Road, thence eastwardly along Sandbridge Road to the Atlantic Ocean, or across any land north of False Cape Park and east of Shipp's Bay and Point Creek. No discharge of rifles larger than .22 south of this line except muzzleloading rifles may be used to hunt deer during the firearms deer season.
58. Shotguns firing pellets lawful on certain agricultural lands of fifty contiguous acres or more, and on certain lands south of a line from the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach boundary, thence northeastwardly along Elbow Road; thence southeastwardly along Salem Road; thence northeastwardly along North Landstown Road; thence southeastwardly along Princess Anne Road; thence eastwardly along Sandbridge Road to the Atlantic Ocean. The property must be permitted by the City Manager for this purpose.
59. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot off a firearm in the county. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot or throw any dangerous missiles by mechanical, explosive, air-or gas-propelled means, or similar method or device onto or across any public sidewalk, path, or roadway, at any public structure or building, or at or onto the property of another. It is unlawful for any person to shoot a compound bow, crossbow, longbow, or recurve bow at or upon the property of another without permission. It shall be unlawful to discharge a projectile from any of the aforementioned bows within 100 yards of any public road, public building or structure, private residence or structure, or property of another. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the use of firearms or other instruments or missiles or compound bows, crossbows, longbows, or recurve bows in lawful self defense or in the lawful defense of property, or to prohibit the use of firearms or other missiles or compound bows, crossbows, longbows, or recurve bows in supervised sport, recreation, or training conducted on safety-inspected and approved ranges and courses, provided the same is not contrary to existing law.
60. It is lawful to hunt deer with rifles from stands elevated 10 feet above the ground during the regular hunting season.
61. It is unlawful to hunt or attempt to hunt on a primary or secondary state maintained highway, and within the side ditches of such highways.
62. Discharging firearms is prohibited within certain areas (check local county ordinance for area description), except deer hunting is permitted with handguns, shotguns, or muzzleloading rifles using a single projectile and all other hunting is allowed with rifles of .22 caliber rimfire or less, handguns, shotguns, and muzzleloading rifles using single or multiple projectiles.
63. The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 50 yards of a highway in the primary or secondary system of state roads.
64. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of any public park or school.
65. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of a building with a current occupancy permit unless the owner or authorized agent has given permission.
66. Muzzleloaders shall be legal firearms during any firearms season.
67. Shotgun slugs shall be permitted for deer hunting.
68. It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, possess or carry a loaded shotgun, rifle, pistol, or firearm of any nature in any vehicle or on his person over, along or on any public street, road or highway in the city.
69. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge an air gun, spring gun or firearm from, along, across or toward, or within 300 yards of any paved public street, highway or road or any building in the city.
70. It shall be lawful to hunt game species with a muzzleloading rifle during the prescribed open seasons.
71. The discharge or use of a rifle, except for a .22 caliber rim fire is prohibited within the city limits.
72. The use of muzzleloading rifles during the prescribed open seasons for the hunting of game species is permitted in the city; provided, however, that the use of such muzzleloading rifle shall be only from a stand located at least 10 feet above the ground.
73. No rifles for turkey hunting.

Bear, Deer and Turkey Tag Validation and Checking Requirements

Validation of Bear, Deer and Turkey Tags

- All hunters harvesting a bear, deer, or turkey, unless the hunter is license exempt, are required to validate an appropriate tag on their bear-deer-turkey license (big game license), bonus deer permit, or special permit (DCAP, DMAP) at the place of kill prior to moving the animal in any way. To validate a tag, successful hunters must completely remove the designated notch area from the appropriate license or permit tag. (See below)
- DO NOT detach license or permit tags to attach to the animal. Validation only requires the removal of the designated notch area from the appropriate license or permit tag.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to validate (notch) a bear, deer, or turkey tag from any license or special permit prior to the killing of an animal. A tag that is mistakenly validated (notched) prior to the killing of an animal must be immediately voided by the licensee or permittee by writing, in ink, the word "VOID" on the line provided on the tag.
- Hunters harvesting an elk are required to validate an appropriate deer tag.

How to Validate a Tag and Check Bear, Deer and Turkey

**ESIDENT
ER — TURKEY**

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SEE ALSO DEFINITION

DO NOT REMOVE 2004-05	DEER EITHER SEX L1234567890 Check Card or Confirmation Number
DO NOT REMOVE 2004-05	DEER EITHER SEX Check Card or Confirmation Number
DO NOT REMOVE 2004-05	DEER ANTERLESS ONLY Check Card or Confirmation Number
DO NOT REMOVE 2004-05	DEER ANTERLESS ONLY Check Card or Confirmation Number

1. Remove the designated notch area from the appropriate tag on your big game license prior to moving the animal. **Do not remove the tag from your license.**
2. Check your deer or spring turkey by calling 1-866-468-4263 or take it to a check station. **Bears and fall turkeys must be checked at an official check station.**
3. Write the check card number or the telephone confirmation number on the license tag next to the notch.
4. You're done.

Checking Bear, Deer and Turkey

- Bear, deer and turkey must be checked by all successful hunters, including license exempt hunters, upon vehicle transport of the carcass or at the conclusion of legal hunting hours, whichever occurs first and without unnecessary delay.
- All deer and spring turkeys must be checked at either a check station or by using the telephone checking system.
- All fall turkeys must be checked at a check station. Fall turkeys cannot be checked through the telephone checking system.
- All bears must be checked at an official bear check station. Bears cannot be checked through the telephone checking system.
- It is unlawful to destroy the identity (sex) of any bear, deer, or turkey until it is checked. After an appropriate tag has been validated (notched), successful bear, deer and elk hunters are allowed to dismember the carcass to pack it out from the place of kill as long as they do not destroy the identity of the sex and all the parts of the carcass are present when the animal is checked.
- Deer hunters who plan to enter a deer head in the Eastern or Western Regional Big Game Contests or the Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show will need to check their antlered buck at a check station. These contests will require an official big game check card for all entries.
- Spring turkey hunters who plan to enter a turkey in any big game or trophy contest that requires a certified weight of the turkey will need to check their turkey at a check station. These contests require a check card for all entries.
- Unless otherwise specified, checking requirements for deer also apply to elk.
- Elk must be checked at a check station. Elk cannot be checked through the telephone checking system.

Check Stations for Bear, Deer and Turkey

- Hunters checking bear, deer, elk and turkeys at a check station will be given a check card furnished by the Department. The successful hunter shall then immediately write the check card number, in ink, on the line labeled “check card or confirmation number” of the tag that was validated (notched) at the place of kill.
- Black bears must be checked at an official bear check station. One or more bear check stations have been established in 69 counties or cities (see page 24). The location of these bear check stations can be obtained from any check station, game warden, or Game Department office. In counties without established bear check stations, successful hunters may transport their kill to a bear check station in an adjoining county that has an established bear check station and also may have their bear checked by a game warden or by Wildlife Division staff. Department staff may be contacted by calling the VDGIF radio dispatcher (Richmond, 804-367-1258) or nearest regional office listed on page 3. Bear check station locations are also listed on the Department Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov. The successful bear hunter shall surrender, or allow to be removed, one premolar tooth from the carcass. Also the check station operator shall permanently affix a seal, furnished by the Department, to the carcass.
- Hunters having difficulty locating an open check station may contact the Department at (804) 367-1258 or their nearest Department regional office listed on page 3 of this digest during normal business hours. Check station locations are also listed on the Department Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.
- The check card must be kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed.
- If the carcass of an animal checked at a check station is left unattended, the check card must be securely attached to the carcass.

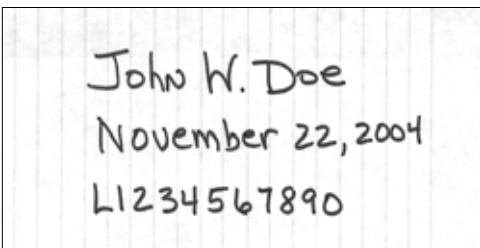
Telephone Checking System for Deer and Spring Turkey 1-866-GOT-GAME

- Only deer (except elk) and spring turkeys may be checked using the telephone checking system.
- Successful hunters can check their kill by calling a toll-free number **1-866-GOT-GAME (468-4263)**. Only touch-tone phones may be used (rotary phones will not work).
- Before calling the system, you will need your big game license, a pen and a piece of paper to record your confirmation number. If you are exempt from purchasing a big game license, you will need your driver’s license number or your social security number.
- Follow the instructions and provide the requested information using the buttons on a touch-tone phone.
- As the telephone call is completed, you will be given a confirmation number. Write it down. Licensed hunters must then immediately write this confirmation number, in ink, on the line labeled “check card or confirmation number” of the tag that was validated (notched) at the place of kill.

Telephone Check Card

- If the kill is reported using the telephone checking system by a hunter who validated a tag, no telephone check card is required as long as the hunter is in possession of the carcass. However, if the carcass is transferred to the possession of another individual or left unattended, a telephone check card (see example below) must be created and kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed. This telephone check card may be written on any type of paper and must include the successful hunter’s full name, the date the animal was killed, and the confirmation number. If the carcass is left unattended, this written documentation must be securely attached to the carcass.
- If the kill is reported using the telephone checking system by a hunter who is license exempt (for example, a landowner who did not have a license tag to validate at the place of kill), the successful hunter must immediately create a telephone check card (see example below). This telephone check card may be written on any type of paper and must include the successful hunter’s full name, the date the animal was killed, and the telephone confirmation number. This written documentation must be kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed. If the carcass is left unattended, this written documentation must be securely attached to the carcass.

Example of a Telephone Check Card

A photograph of a piece of lined paper with handwritten text in black ink. The text is written in three lines: "John W. Doe", "November 22, 2004", and "L1234567890".

John W. Doe
November 22, 2004
L1234567890

An animal reported using the telephone checking system will require the creation of a telephone check card if:

1. The hunter is license exempt.
2. The carcass is transferred to someone else.
3. The carcass is left unattended.

The Telephone Check Card may be written on any type of paper using a pen and must include the hunter’s full name, date of kill and the telephone confirmation number.

Big Game Hunting Seasons

Bear

Bag Limits:

One per license year, at least 100 pounds live weight or 75 pounds dressed weight (all internal organs removed). **Females with cubs may not be harvested.**

Archery Bear Season

October 9–November 6 Statewide

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Archery license required.
- Archery tackle (includes longbows, recurve, and compound bows) only.
- Crossbows may be used by disabled hunters (see General Hunting Regulations page 15).
- Arrowhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- Bows must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards.
- Unlawful to use arrows to which any drug, chemical, or toxic substance has been added or explosive head arrows.
- Unlawful to have a firearm in possession (see exception for concealed handguns on page 15).
- Unlawful to use dogs.

Muzzeloading Bear Season

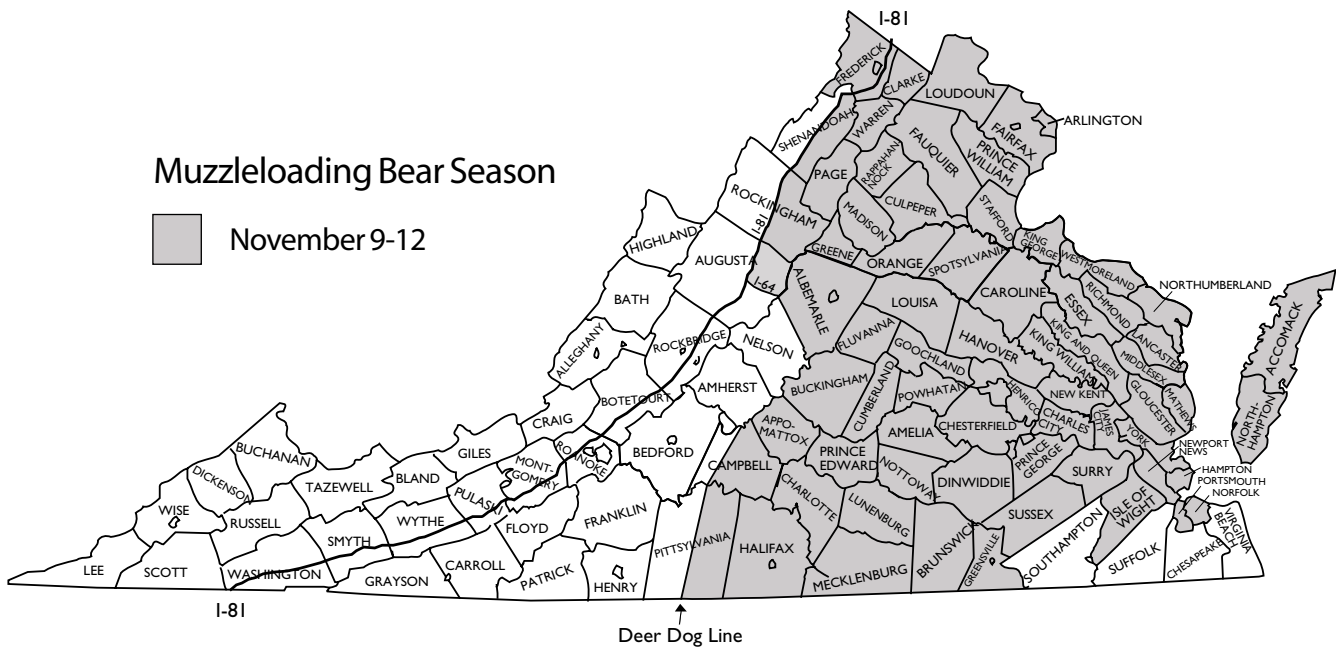
November 9–12 Certain counties, see map below

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Muzzleloading license required.
- Muzzleloading firearms only (see Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 17).
- Muzzleloading guns must be single shot flintlock or percussion ignition, excluding muzzleloading pistols.
- Must be .45 caliber or larger.
- Scopes permitted.
- Must be able to fire only a single bullet or sabot bullet (.38 caliber or larger projectile).
- Must be loaded from the muzzle of the gun.
- Must use at least 50 grains of black powder or black powder equivalent.
- For the purposes of transportation in a vehicle, muzzleloading firearms are considered “unloaded” when all powder has been removed from the flashpan, or the percussion cap has been removed from the nipple. For complete safety, a muzzleloader should be emptied by shooting into soft ground.
- Unlawful to have in immediate possession any firearm other than a muzzleloading gun while hunting with a muzzleloader (see exception for concealed handguns on page 15).
- Unlawful to hunt bear with dogs.
- Unlawful to use muzzleloading pistols.

These restrictions (except county ordinances) do not apply if using a muzzleloading firearm during the firearms bear season.

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 14 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 17 for details.



Firearms Bear Season

December 6–18.

- In the counties of Buchanan, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson, Henry, Lee, Montgomery (south of I-81), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Pulaski (south of I-81), Roanoke (south of I-81), Russell, Scott, Smyth (south of I-81), Tazewell (north of Rt. 19 and west of Rt. 16), Washington (south of I-81 or west of Rt. 19), Wise and Wythe (south of I-81), and on the Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas).

November 22–January 1.

- In the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amherst, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Culpeper, Craig, Giles, Greene, Highland, Madison, Montgomery (north of I-81), Nelson, Page, Pulaski (north of I-81), Rappahannock, Roanoke (north of I-81), Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Smyth (north of I-81), Tazewell (south of Rt. 19 or east of Rt. 16), Warren, Washington (that part north of I-81 which is east of Rt. 19), Wythe (north of I-81).

Exception

- Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas (see December 6-18 season)

November 1–January 1.

- In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach.

Closed.

- In the counties of Accomack, Amelia, Appomattox, Arlington, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fair-

fax, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Gloucester, Goochland, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, New Kent, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottingham, Orange, Pittsylvania (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Richmond, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland, York and the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk and Portsmouth.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms

(See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 14 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 17 for details.)

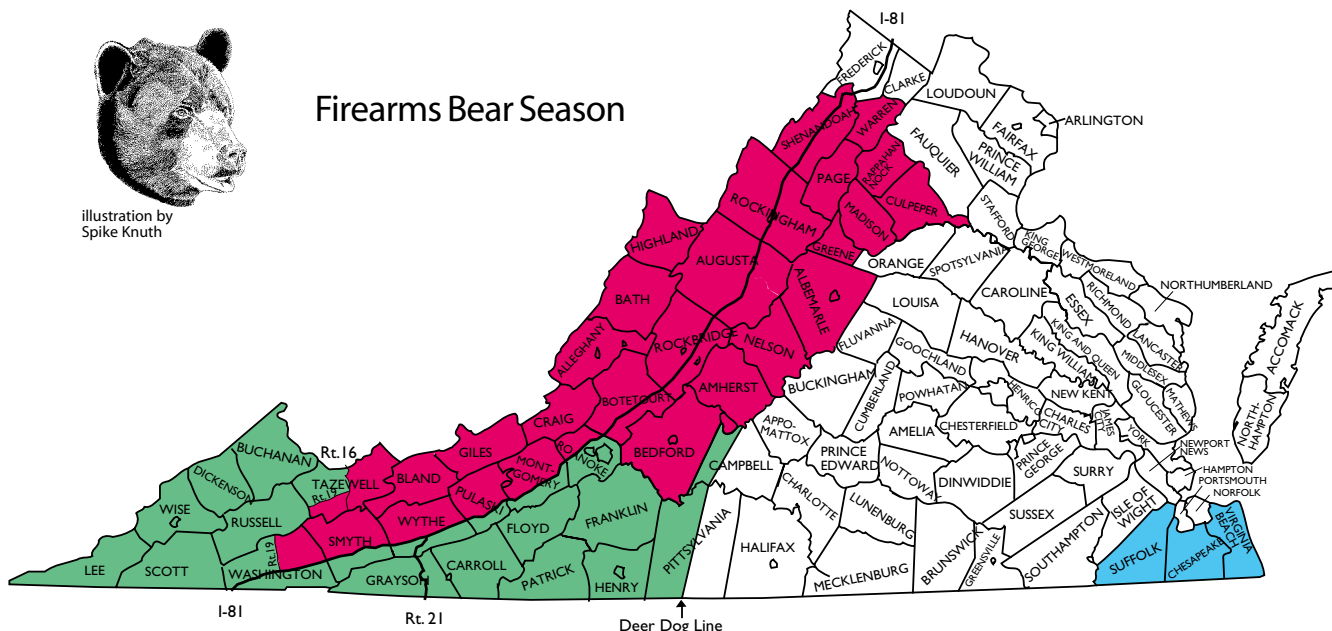
Dogs May Not Be Used to Hunt Bear:

- During the firearms deer season in the counties west of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, and Nelson (west of Rt. 151).
- During the first 12 hunting days of the firearms deer season in Madison and Greene counties.
- In the counties of Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad) Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson (east of Rt. 21), Henry, Montgomery (south of I-81), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Pulaski (south of I-81), Roanoke (south of I-81) and Wythe (south of I-81 and east of Rt. 21).
- When hunting during the archery and muzzleloading bear seasons.



illustration by Spike Knuth

Firearms Bear Season



NO BLACK BEAR MAY BE TAKEN DURING THIS SEASON.

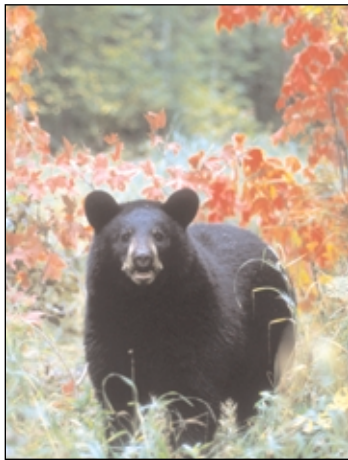
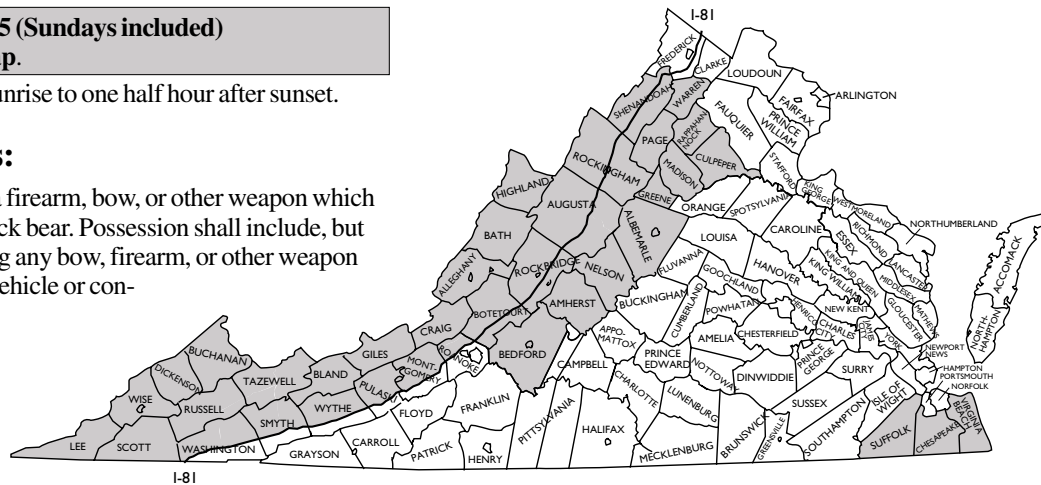
Season:**August 28–September 25 (Sundays included)**

Certain counties, see map.

- One half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.

Unlawful Methods:

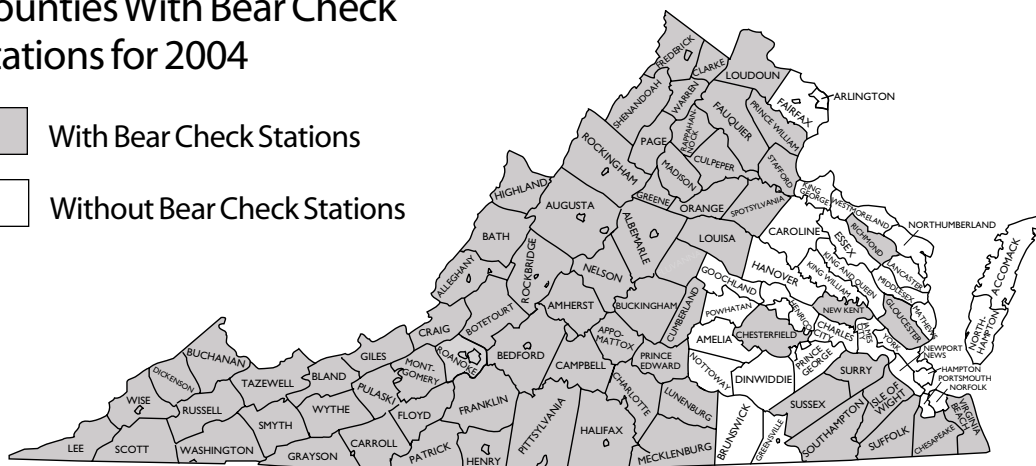
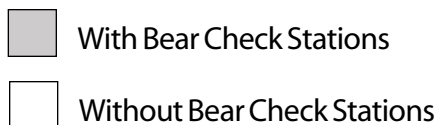
- To have in possession a firearm, bow, or other weapon which is capable of taking black bear. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having any bow, firearm, or other weapon in or on one's person, vehicle or conveyance.



Bear Checking:

All bears must be checked at an official bear check station. Locations for bear check stations are available on the VDGIF Web site or by calling 1-804-367-1000. Bears cannot be checked through the telephone checking system.

Counties With Bear Check Stations for 2004



Deer

General Information

Bag Limits:

East of the Blue Ridge (except on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties)

- The bag limit for deer for all hunters shall be two a day, six a license year, three of which must be antlerless.

West of the Blue Ridge and on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties

- The bag limit for deer for all hunters shall be one a day, five a license year, three of which must be antlerless. Only one antlered buck may be taken during the early muzzleloading season per muzzleloader hunter.

Bag limit Exceptions

- Deer hunters, including those exempt from purchasing a license, on private land and authorized public lands may take more than the license-year bag limit by using bonus deer permits or special permits (DCAP and DMAP).

Antlered and Antlerless Deer

Antlered Deer

- Antlered bucks must have antlers visible above the hairline.

Antlerless Deer

- Antlerless deer may only be taken during designated either-sex deer hunting days during the archery season(s), muzzleloading season(s), and firearms season.
- Youth deer hunters may take one antlerless deer subject to the Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation (see provisions below).

Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation

- Deer hunters 15 years of age and under, resident or nonresident, may take one antlerless deer per license year on days other than designated either-sex deer hunting days during the muzzleloading seasons or the firearms season in all counties that have at least one either-sex deer hunting day during the firearms deer season.

Archery Deer Seasons

Early Archery Season:

October 2–November 12: Statewide

Bonus Deer Permits

- Are valid for antlerless deer only.
- Are not restricted to the number that may be purchased and used.
- Allow deer to be taken in addition to the license year bag limit.
- Do not allow daily bag limits to be exceeded.
- Are valid only on private lands and authorized public lands.
- Are not valid on National Forest and Department-owned lands.
- Are not valid in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties.
- Are valid during the archery, muzzleloading, and firearms deer seasons.
- Are valid only on designated either-sex deer hunting days.

Late Archery Seasons:

November 29–January 1:

- In all areas west of the Blue Ridge (except Clarke and Floyd counties and on private lands in Frederick County).
- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Nelson (west of Rt. 151).
- On the Chester F. Phelps WMA and on National Forest lands in Frederick County.

December 1–January 1:

- In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

December 13–January 1:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad).

Special Urban Archery Deer Season:

September 18–October 1 and January 3–March 26

- Within the incorporated limits of the cities of Colonial Heights, Franklin, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Radford, Richmond and the towns of Altavista, Amherst, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Farmville, Independence, Rocky Mount, Tazewell, West Point and in Fairfax County.
- **During this season only antlerless deer may be taken.**
- Lists of properties available for hunting *are not* maintained by the Department or local governments.
- Visit www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/special_urban_archery.html for local restrictions, check stations, and other information.

Deer Facts

- Breeding season or the “rut” as it is commonly called for whitetails, begins in September and terminates by January in much of North America.
- In Virginia, the peak of the rut typically occurs just after mid November over most of the state and possibly a little earlier as you move east.
- Conception data for Virginia whitetails indicates that the majority of does are bred in a 2-week period.
- The gestation period for white-tailed deer averages about 200 days.
- In Virginia, the majority of fawns are born in early June.
- Healthy adult female deer will generally give birth to two fawns annually. Triplet fawns are rare, and quadruplets have been documented.

Either-Sex Deer Hunting Days

- Deer of either sex may be taken full season during all archery seasons, unless otherwise noted below.
- Only antlered (buck) deer may be taken during the early and late archery deer seasons in Buchanan County, on private lands in Dickenson County, and on private lands in Wise County. Deer of either-sex may be taken full season during the archery deer seasons on public lands (National Forest and U.S. Corp of Engineer) in Dickenson County and Wise County.

Legal Methods and Restrictions during Archery Deer Seasons:

- Archery License required.
- Archery tackle (includes longbow, recurve, and compound bow) only.
- Crossbows may be used by disabled hunters (see General Hunting Regulations, pg. 15).
- Arrowhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- Bows must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards.
- It is unlawful to use arrows to which any drug, chemical or toxic substance has been added or explosive head arrows.
- It is unlawful to have a firearm in possession (see exception for concealed handguns on page 15).
- It is unlawful to use dogs.

Muzzleloading Deer Seasons

Early Muzzleloader Seasons:

October 30–November 12:

- In all areas where deer hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading gun is permitted **east of the Blue Ridge** (unless noted in the exceptions listed below).

Exceptions:

- National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties (see the November 6-12 season).
- Closed in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

October 30–November 12 (full season):

- In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).
- On Occoneechee State Park.

November 6:

- On State Forest lands, State Park lands (except Occoneechee State Park), Department-owned lands, and the Philpott Reservoir.

November 6–12:

- In all areas where deer hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading gun is permitted **west of the Blue Ridge** and on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties.

- **Antlered Buck Restriction:**

- Only one antlered buck may be taken per muzzleloader hunter during this season.

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

November 8:

- In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).
- On National Forest and Department-owned lands in Roanoke County.
- On National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties.

November 6–12 (full season):

- In Floyd County and on private lands in Roanoke County.

Antlered bucks only–no either-sex deer hunting days:

- In Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, and Wise Counties. Only antlered (buck) deer may be taken during the early muzzleloading season in these counties.

Late Muzzleloader Season:

December 18–January 1:

- In all areas where deer hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading gun is permitted **west of the Blue Ridge** (except Clarke County and on private lands in Frederick County).
- In the counties (including cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Patrick, and Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad).
- On National Forest lands in Frederick County.
- In the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

• Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

December 27–January 1:

- In all areas west of the Blue Ridge (except Clarke County and on private lands in Frederick County) unless otherwise noted below.
- On National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties.
- On National Forest lands in Frederick County and on National Forest and Department-owned lands in Roanoke County.
- In the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

December 18–January 1 (full season):

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29, except on National Forest lands), Bedford (except on National Forest lands), Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Rt. 151, except on National Forest lands), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and Roanoke (private lands only).

January 1:

- In the counties of Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, and Washington.

Antlered bucks only—no either-sex deer hunting days:

- In Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise Counties. Only antlered (buck) deer may be taken during the late muzzleloading season in these counties.

Muzzleloading Deer Hunting for Incorporated Cities and Towns:

Deer of either sex may be taken full season during all muzzleloading seasons within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth that allows deer hunting (except in the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise and in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach).

Legal Methods and Restrictions During Muzzleloading Deer Seasons:

- Muzzleloading License required.
- Muzzleloading firearms only (see Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 17).
- Muzzleloading guns must be single shot flintlock or percussion ignition, excluding muzzleloading pistols.
- Must be .45 caliber or larger.
- Scopes permitted.
- Must be able to fire only a single bullet or sabot bullet (.38 caliber or larger projectile).
- Must be loaded from the muzzle of the gun.
- Must use at least 50 grains of black powder or black powder equivalent.
- For the purposes of transportation in a vehicle, muzzleloading firearms are considered “unloaded” when all powder has been removed from the flashpan, or the percussion cap has been removed from the nipple. For complete safety, a muzzleloader should be emptied by shooting into soft ground.
- Unlawful to have in immediate possession any firearm other than a muzzleloading gun while hunting with a muzzleloader (see exception for concealed handguns on page 15).
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs.
- Unlawful to use muzzleloading pistols.

These restrictions (except county ordinances) do not apply if using a muzzleloading firearm during the firearms deer season.

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 14 and Local Firearms Ordinance, pg. 17 for details.

More Deer Facts

- Male fawns weigh about 65 pounds live weight.
- Yearling bucks in Virginia average about 110-115 pounds, and yearling females are 10 to 15 pounds less.
- Adult males (> 2-1/2 years-of-age) average about 145 pounds live weight and adult females are about 25 to 30 pounds lighter.
- Two hundred-pound dressed weight deer are very rare in Virginia.
- Tooth replacement and wear based on the tooth eruption and wear patterns on the lower jaw is the most widely used technique for aging white-tailed deer.
- Average home range size reported for deer in the southeast vary from 146 to 1,285 acres and averages approximately 500 acres.
- Bucks generally expand their range significantly during the rut.
- White-tailed deer tend to be most active around dawn and dusk.

Firearms Deer Seasons

Seasons

November 13–January 1:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (east of Rt. 29), Campbell (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Culpeper (see exception for C. F. Phelps WMA below), Gloucester, Goochland (east of U.S. Route 522), Greene, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, James City, Lancaster, Madison, Nelson (east of Rt. 151), Northumberland, Orange, Pittsylvania (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Rappahannock, Richmond, Spotsylvania, and Stafford, and in the City of Suffolk (west of the Dismal Swamp line).

Exceptions:

- November 13–27 on the C.F. Phelps WMA.

• Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 20 and 27, and December 20–January 1:

- In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).

November 20 and December 27–January 1:

- On James River WMA.

November 20 and January 1:

- On the White Oak Mountain WMA.

Antlered bucks only–no either-sex deer hunting days:

- On the C.F. Phelps WMA.

October 1–November 30:

- In the City of Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line).

• Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

October 2 and 9, and November 24–30:

- In all areas.

November 13–January 1:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Goochland (west of U.S. Route 522), Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Powhatan, Prince Edward, and Prince George.

• Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 20 and 27, and December 31–January 1:

- In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).

November 20:

- On the Appomattox-Buckingham, Cumberland, and Prince Edward State Forests.

November 13–27:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Grayson, Montgomery, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Roanoke, and Warren.

• Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 13–27 (full season):

- In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).

November 20–27:

- On National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson.

November 20 and 26–27:

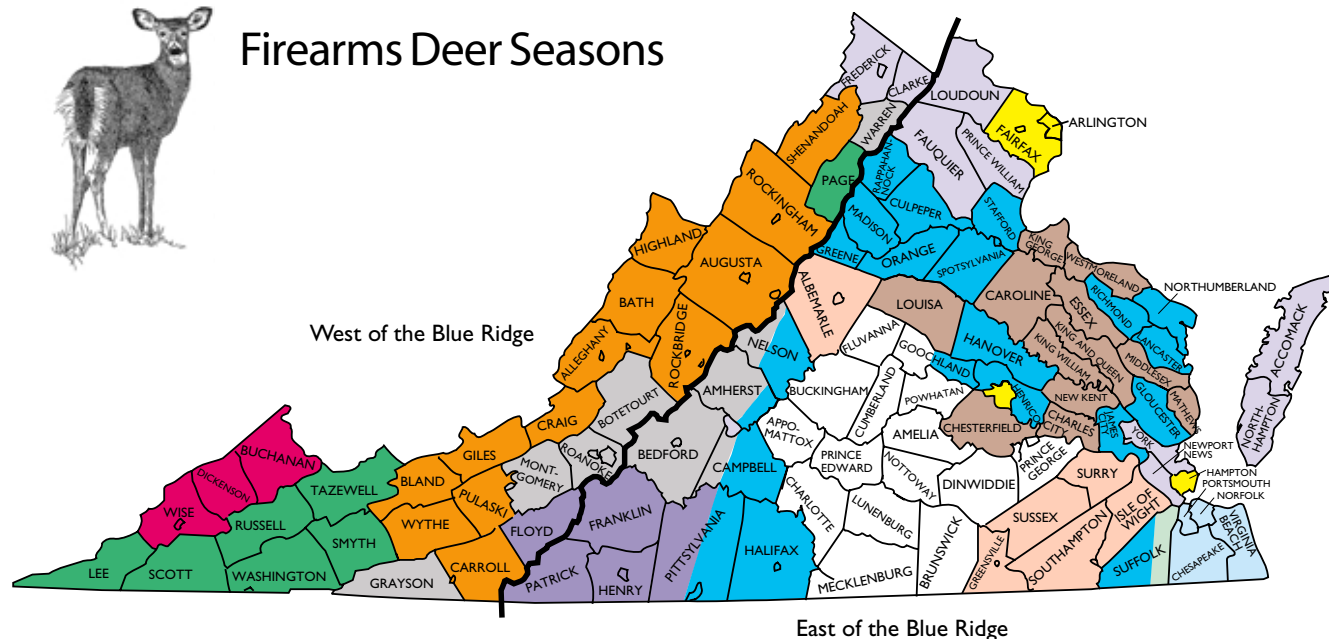
- On National Forest lands and Department-owned lands in Botetourt, Montgomery, and Roanoke.

November 20 and 27:

- On National Forest lands in Grayson and portions of Grayson Highlands State Park open to hunting and on National Forest lands in Warren.



Firearms Deer Seasons



November 13–January 1:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Albemarle, Greensville, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex.
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
November 20 and 27, December 4–January 1:
 - In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).**Antlered bucks only–no either-sex deer hunting days:**
 - On the Carlisle Tract of the Hog Island WMA and Raged Island WMA (Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies, see pg. 46 for details).

November 13–27:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise.
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
Antlered bucks only–no either-sex deer hunting days:
 - In all areas. Only antlered (buck) deer may be taken during the firearms season in these counties.

November 13–January 1:

- In Arlington County, City of Hampton, and City of Richmond (archery only). *Note:* Local Ordinances prohibit the discharge of firearms in these areas. (See Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 17).
- In Fairfax County (on private lands for which a special permit has been issued to the landowner, contact the Div. of Animal Control, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 for details). No special police permit is required for archery deer hunting.
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
November 13– January 1 (full season):
 - In all areas.

November 13– January 1:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Accomack, Clarke, Fauquier (see exception for C. F. Phelps WMA below), Frederick (see exception for National Forest lands below), Loudoun, Northampton, Prince William, and York.

Exceptions:

- November 13–27 on the C.F. Phelps WMA and National Forests lands in Frederick County.
- In the cities of Lynchburg (on private lands for which a special permit has been issued by the Chief of Police) and Newport News.
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
November 13– January 1 (full season):
 - In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).**November 20 and January 1:**
 - On the G.R. Thompson WMA.**November 20 and 27:**
 - On National Forest lands in Frederick.**Antlered bucks only–no either-sex deer hunting days:**
 - On the C. F. Phelps WMA.

November 13–December 11:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad).
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
November 13–December 11 (full season):
 - In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).**November 20 and December 10–11:**
 - On Fairystone Farms WMA, Fairystone State Park, Philpott Reservoir, and Turkeycock Mountain WMA.

November 13–27:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Lee, Page, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, and Washington.
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
November 20 and 26–27:
 - In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).**November 20 and 27:**
 - On National Forest lands in Page, Smyth, Tazewell, and Washington counties and on the Clinch Mountain WMA and Hidden Valley WMA.**Antlered bucks only–no either-sex deer hunting days:**
 - On National Forest lands in Lee and Scott.

November 13– January 1:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Essex, King George, King and Queen, King William, Louisa, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, and Westmoreland.
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
November 20 and 27, and December 27–January 1:
 - In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).**Antlered bucks only–no either-sex deer hunting days:**
 - On the Chickahominy WMA (Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies, see pg. 25 for details).

November 13–27:

- In the counties (including cities and towns within) of Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Bland, Carroll, Craig, Giles, Highland, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Wythe.
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
November 20-27:
 - In all areas (unless otherwise noted below).**November 20, and 26– 27:**
 - On National Forest and Department-owned lands in Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Bland, Carroll, Craig, Giles, Highland, Pulaski, Rockbridge, and Wythe.**November 20 and 27:**
 - On National Forest lands in Rockingham and Shenandoah.

October 1–November 30:

- In the cities of Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach.
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
November 24–30:
 - in all areas

Did You Know?

- Buck antlers are true bone that grows from pedicels on the frontal bones of the skull.
- Annual antler growth generally begins in mid March to April.
- A buck's first set of antlers grows during his yearling spring and summer (e.g., at 1-1/2 years-of-age).
- The growing bone is full of blood vessels and nerves and is covered with hairy skin called "velvet."
- Growth continues through August or September. The bone then hardens, and the velvet dries up and falls off.
- Most antlered bucks in Virginia are in hard polished antler by September 15th.
- By late December or early January, the antlers fall off in response to changes in day length and decreasing testosterone levels.

Firearms Deer Hunting For Incorporated Cities and Towns

Deer of either sex may be taken full season during the firearms deer season within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth that allows deer hunting (except in the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise and in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach).

Legal Methods and Restrictions during Firearms Deer Seasons:

- Modern firearms.
- Archery tackle.
- Muzzleloading firearms.
- Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 14 and Local Firearms Ordinance, pg. 17 for details.

Dogs May Not Be Used For Deer Hunting:

- West of the Blue Ridge.
- East of the Blue Ridge in Bedford, Fairfax, Franklin, Henry Loudoun, Northampton, and Patrick counties, and Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and the city of Lynchburg.
- Statewide when hunting during archery and muzzleloading seasons.
- On many military areas. Check individual Post regulations.
- On Amelia, Pettigrew, G. Richard Thompson, and C.F. Phelps Wildlife Management Areas.
- During the first 12 hunting days of the firearms deer season in Madison and Greene counties.

2004 Virginia Big Game Contest

Eastern Regional
September 11–12, 2004
Southampton County Fairground,
Franklin

State Championship and
Western Regional
September 25–26, 2004
Rockingham County Fairgrounds,
Harrisonburg

For additional information and directions go to
www.vpsa.org

Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Peninsula Sportsmen's Association and the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Chapter Izaak Walton League of America.

Hunters are reminded that a check card from a check station is required to enter an animal in the contest. Telephone check-in is not accepted.

Elk

- Elk of either sex, antlered or antlerless, may be taken during any open deer season using the weapons legal for deer during that season.
- Licenses, tag validation, and checking requirements for elk are the same for deer except that elk must be checked at a check station. The taking of an elk counts towards the hunter's daily and license year bag limit for deer.
- It is unlawful to destroy the identity (sex) of any harvested elk until checked. Elk may be dismembered to pack it out from the place of kill. The identity of the sex and all parts of the carcass must be present when the elk is checked.

Turkey

Bag Limits:

General: One per day, three per license year, no more than two of which may be taken in the fall.

Archery and Fall Firearms Season: Turkeys of either sex may be taken.

Spring Gobbler Season: Bearded turkeys only.

Archery Turkey Season

October 2–November 6: Statewide

- Except in counties where there is a closed firearm season on turkey.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Decoys and blinds may be used.
- Arrowhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- Bows must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards.
- Unlawful to have a firearm in possession (see exception for concealed handguns on page 15).
- Unlawful to use dogs when hunting with archery tackle during the archery season.

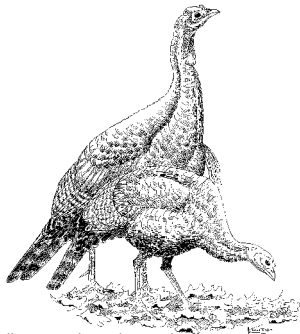
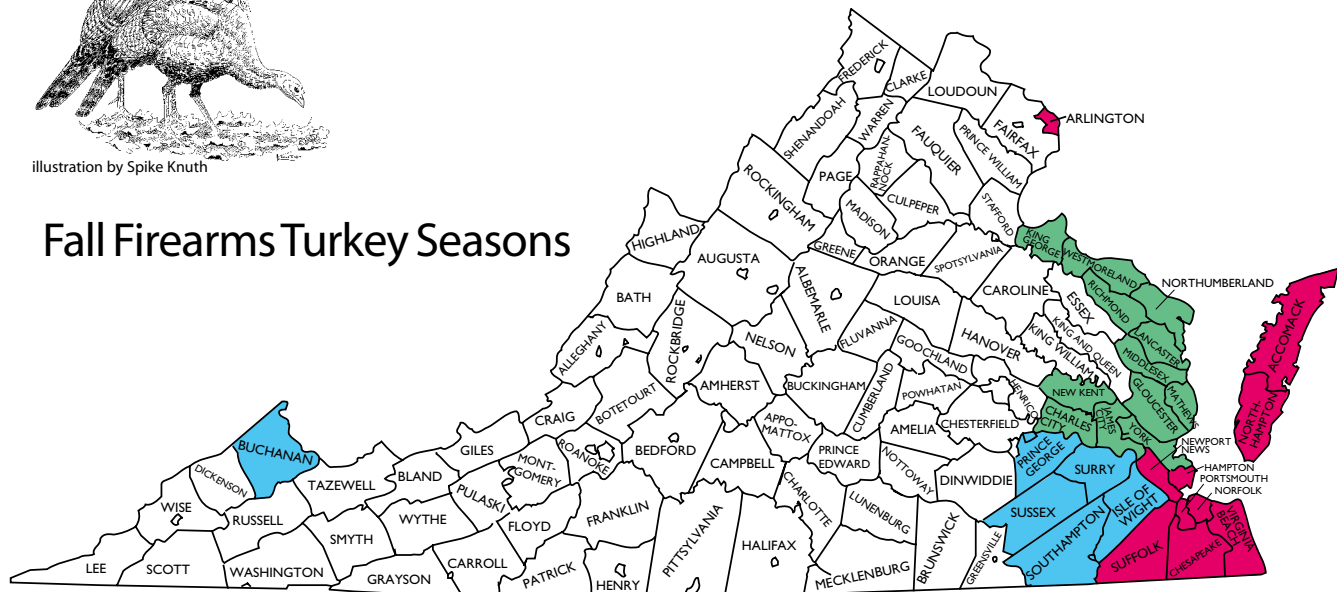


illustration by Spike Knuth

Fall Firearms Turkey Seasons



Fall Firearms Turkey Seasons

October 25–November 6, November 25 and December 6–January 1.

- In the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dickenson, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Goochland, Grayson, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, Highland, King and Queen, King William, Lee, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince William, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Wise, and Wythe and on Camp Peary.

October 25–November 6 and November 25.

- In the counties of Buchanan, Isle of Wight, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex.

October 25–November 6, November 25 and December 6–18.

- In the counties of Charles City, Gloucester, James City, King George, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, and York (except on Camp Peary).

Closed.

- In the counties of Accomack, Arlington, and Northampton and in the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

continued on page 32

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Decoys, blinds, and dogs may be used
- Unlawful to use electronic calls

(See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 14 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 17 for details)



Spring Gobbler Season

Seasons: Statewide

April 2: Youth Spring Turkey Hunt

- One-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.
- Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger to participate. All youth must be accompanied and directly supervised and within sight of an adult. Adult hunters accompanying youth: must possess a valid Virginia hunting license (or be exempt from purchasing a hunting license); may assist with calling; and shall not carry or discharge a firearm.

April 9–30:

- One-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon each day.

May 2–May 14:

- One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Decoys and blinds may be used
- Unlawful to use electronic calls
- Unlawful to use dogs during spring gobbler season
- Unlawful to use or have in possession any shot larger than number 2 fine shot during spring gobbler season

(See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 14 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 17 for details)

Electronic Calls

Unlawful to take or attempt to take wild animals and wild birds with recorded or electrically amplified calls, except for crow, coyote and fox. Electronic calls may be used to take foxes and coyotes on private lands with written permission of landowner. Use of a light is permitted as long as the light is not attached to or cast from a vehicle.

Small Game Hunting Seasons

Crow

Season:

August 21–March 19 on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday only

Crows are a federally regulated migratory species, no HIP number is required to hunt them. Crow hunting on some public lands is allowed only during certain time periods, see National Forest–Game Department Regulations on page 12.

Groundhog

Season:

Continuous open season on private lands. Groundhog hunting on some public lands is allowed only during certain time periods, see National Forest–Game Department Regulations on page 12.

Grouse

Season:

October 25–February 12 west of I-95
Continuous closed season east of I-95

Bag Limit:

Three per day

Quail and Pheasant

Season:

November 8–January 31

Bag Limits:

Quail: six per day

Pheasant: no daily or seasonal bag limit

Rabbit

Season:

November 1–February 14.

Bag Limit:

Six per day

Squirrel (Gray, Red, and Fox*)

*Fox squirrels open only in the counties west of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Loudoun, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock during any authorized squirrel season.

Bag Limit:

All squirrels combined - six per day.

Archery Squirrel Season

Season:

October 2–November 6

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Unlawful to use dogs when hunting with archery tackle during the squirrel archery season.
- Unlawful to have a firearm in possession (see exception for concealed handguns on page 15).

Firearms Squirrel Season

Season:

September 4–January 31.

Furbearer Hunting Seasons

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Dogs may be used by regulation (see Hunting with Dogs, pg. 14)
- Electronic calls (See page 32)

(See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 14 and Local Firearms pg.17 for details)

Bobcat

Season:

November 1–January 31

Bag Limit:

Two per hunting party taken between noon one day and noon the following day. Season bag limit shall be 12 bobcats in the aggregate, taken by hunting and trapping combined.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- No bobcat pelts may be tanned, mounted, sold, traded or shipped out of state until sealed by an agent of the Department. All bobcat pelts must be sealed by April 1.

Dogs May Not Be Used:

To hunt bobcat during deer season

- In the counties of Alleghany, Amherst (west of Route 29), Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Page, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren and within the boundaries of the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests.

Coyote

Season:

Continuous open season to take coyotes on private lands. Coyote hunting on some public lands is allowed only during certain time periods. See National Forest-Game Department Regulations on page.12.

Fox

Hunting With Dogs and Gun

Season:

November 1–January 31. Closed in Albemarle, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier (except Quantico), Loudoun, Louisa, and Rappahannock counties.

Dogs May Not Be Used:

To hunt foxes during deer season

- On the Gathright, Goshen, Highland and Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Areas and within the boundaries of the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests.

Coyote Bounty Law

While coyotes are not protected, live coyotes may not be imported or possessed in Virginia. Counties have the option of establishing their own coyote bounty system. For more information, hunters and trappers should contact their County Administrator or County Board of Supervisors.

Hunting With Dogs Only

Continuous open season statewide; closed February 1–October 31 on the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests and on Gathright, Goshen, G. Richard Thompson, Highland, Little North Mountain, and Rapidan WMAs.

Restrictions:

- To have in possession a firearm when hunting fox outside of the dog and gun fox season. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having any firearm in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance.

Opossum

Seasons:

October 15–March 10 statewide

Raccoon

Season:

October 15–March 10 statewide

Bag Limit:

East of the Blue Ridge: Two per hunter taken between noon one day and noon the following day.

West of the Blue Ridge: Two per hunting party (individual or organized) taken between noon one day and noon the following day.

Chase Season

NO RACCOON MAY BE TAKEN DURING THIS SEASON (Except that raccoon may be taken during open season referenced above.)

Season:

August 1–May 31 east of the Blue Ridge (except on George Washington and Jefferson National Forests) and west of the Blue Ridge (private lands only).

Legal Methods of Chase:

- Dogs
- While chasing raccoons it is unlawful to have in possession a firearm, bow, axe, saw, or any tree climbing device during this chase season. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having these devices in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance while engaged in the act of chasing.

Skunk

Season:

Continuous open season to take striped skunk on private lands. Skunk hunting on some public lands is allowed only dur-

ing certain time periods, see National Forest–Game Department Regulations on page 12. Continuous closed season for taking spotted skunks and the pelts of spotted skunks may not be sold.

Furbearer Trapping Seasons

General Regulations

Residents under 16 years of age do not need a license to trap when accompanied by any person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid state or county license to trap. Trappers using box traps for rabbits do not need a license, but permission of the landowner is necessary. County residents 65 years of age and over do not need a license to trap on private property in county of residence. National Forest lands will be open during the regular trapping seasons. Trappers must visit all traps once each day to remove all animals caught therein. Check local ordinances before trapping near highways.

Trapping on Department-owned or controlled lands and waters is allowed under the regulations of the Board unless prohibited by posted rules. The posted rules may require written authorization to trap on some areas or may specify other restrictions.

There is a continuous open season to trap beaver, muskrat, opossum and raccoon within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth, and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke and York.

It is lawful to set traps in water from December 1 through the last day of February both dates inclusive, and at anytime within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke and York, except as otherwise specifically provided by department permit or by local ordinances.

Any person setting or in possession of a steel leghold or body gripping trap or snare shall have it marked by means of a nonferrous metal tag bearing his name and address. This requirement shall not apply to landowners on their own land, nor to a bonafide tenant or lessee within the bounds of land rented or leased by him, nor to anyone transporting any such trap from its place of purchase.

The use of body gripping traps with a jaw spread in excess of 7½ inches is prohibited except when such traps are covered by water.

It is unlawful to set above the ground any body gripping trap with a jaw spread in excess of 5 inches, baited with any lure or scent likely to attract a dog.

No deadfalls or snares, except that on land snares with loops less than 12 inches in diameter with the top of the snare loop not more than 12 inches above the ground may be used on private lands with written permission of the landowner.

It is unlawful to set above the ground any steel leghold trap with teeth set upon the jaws or with a jaw spread exceeding 6 1/2 inches.

It is unlawful to willfully molest, damage, or remove any trap, or any lawfully caught bird or animal therefrom or in any way disturb traps or snares legally set by another person.

No trapping within 50 feet of a highway in Clarke, Fauquier, and Loudoun counties.

No trapping of furbearing animals within 300 yards of First Landing/Seashore State Park and the Virginia Marine Science Museum in the City of Virginia Beach.



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Trapping Seasons

Beaver

December 1–February 28 except there is a continuous open season within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth, and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke and York.

Bobcat

November 15–February 28

Bag limit: The season bag limit shall be 12 bobcats in the aggregate, taken by hunting and trapping combined.

No bobcat pelts may be tanned, mounted, sold, traded, or shipped out of state until sealed by an agent of the Department. All bobcat pelts must be sealed by April 1.

Coyote

Continuous open season.

Fox

November 15–February 28

Fox trapping is **prohibited** in Clarke (except on G. Richard Thompson WMA), Fauquier (except on Chester F. Phelps WMA and G. Richard Thompson WMA), Loudoun, and Rapahannock counties.

Mink

December 1–February 28

Muskrat

December 1–February 28 except there is a continuous open season within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth, and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke and York.

Nutria

Continuous open season

Opossum

November 15–February 28 except there is a continuous open season within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth, and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke and York.

Otter

December 1–February 28, east of the Blue Ridge
No otter trapping permitted, west of the Blue Ridge

No otter pelts may be sold, traded, or shipped out of state until sealed by an agent of the Department. All otter pelts must be sealed by April 1.

Rabbit

May be taken with box traps from **October 15–January 31** provided no traps shall be set on the lands of another without written permission of the landowner.

Raccoon

November 15–February 28 except there is a continuous open season within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth, and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke and York.

Skunk

Continuous open season for striped skunk. Continuous closed season for taking spotted skunk and the pelts of spotted skunk may not be sold.

Weasel

December 1–February 28

July 2004 – June 2005

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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The New 2004-2005 Virginia Wildlife Calendar Is Now Available

It's that time of year again to purchase the 2004-2005 Virginia Wildlife Calendar, one of the most informative and beautiful wildlife calendars in the country. No other calendar will give you the best times to go fishing and hunting, unique natural resource information that will amaze and educate you, and spectacular wildlife photographs that give you an up-close look at Virginia's incredible wildlife.

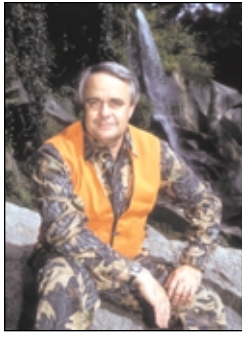
The Virginia Wildlife Calendar is a production of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and customers are reminded that the 2004-2005 wildlife calendar starts in September and runs through August. Quantities are limited and sales will run from July 15 through December 31, 2004, so don't wait—order now!

The 2004-2005 Virginia Wildlife Calendars are \$10.00 each. Make check payable to: *Treasurer of Virginia* and send to Virginia Wildlife Calendar, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA. 23230-1104. If you would like to use your VISA or MasterCard you can order online at www.dgif.virginia.gov. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Hunting and Trapping Annual 2004-2005



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Letter From the Director

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is pleased to bring you this 2004-2005 Hunting and Trapping Annual. This expanded supplement to our hunting digest includes information about Department programs, wildlife management and research projects, harvest data, and related facts about Virginia's wildlife. Each year the Annual will contain articles and information on a variety of timely topics we think will be of interest to Virginia's sportsmen and women.

As this Annual is published, hunting and trapping opportunities throughout the Commonwealth abound. We offer among the most liberal seasons and bag limits in the country for white-tailed deer. Virginia has had a long-standing tradition of both fall and spring turkey hunting. Last year we introduced a special youth turkey hunting day prior to the regular spring gobbler season that we hope will become a new tradition. We also expanded our bear season, taking the archery season statewide; adding a special muzzleloading season; and extending the regular firearms season into areas of the Commonwealth that hadn't seen bear hunting in years. The abundance of small game species, such as squirrel and rabbit, also offers the opportunity for young hunters to participate in the tradition of sport hunting just as their parents and grandparents once did.

In this Annual section, you will read about our deer, bear, turkey, small game and habitat management programs and learn how to age and to determine the sex of a turkey. The section on Public Ranges shows locations where you can sharpen your shooting skills or sight-in your firearm in preparation for the hunt. The Annual also lists managed and quota hunts offered during the season as well as workshops and events. Applications for the quota hunts and the Radford Army Ammunition Plant hunt are included. In addition, read about two well-known wildlife diseases—hemorrhagic disease, which commonly occurs in Virginia's white-tailed deer, and chronic wasting disease which is not found in Virginia—and the steps we are taking to ensure that it does not occur in the state.

We hope you enjoy reading the 2004-2005 Hunting and Trapping Annual. We designed the Annual to contain information that will assist you in planning and preparing for your hunt. Hunting is a valuable wildlife management tool and we appreciate your support. Have a safe and successful hunting and trapping season.

William L. Woodfin, Jr.
Director

Black Bear Management in Virginia

Denny Martin
Bear Project Leader

Black bears were abundant in the vicinity of Jamestown when settlers arrived in 1607 and were found in all regions of Virginia. Rapidly growing human populations had early impacts on Virginia's bear population due to habitat changes and over exploitation. By 1836, bears seemed to be extirpated from most of the Tidewater and Piedmont areas of Virginia, but were still plentiful in the mountains and in the Dismal Swamp. As Virginia changed from an agrarian to urban or suburban societies, and farmlands reverted to forests, habitat quality for bears and other wildlife improved. Since 1900, efforts supporting bear restoration produced growing and expanding bear populations throughout Virginia. These efforts included hunting regulation controls, reforestation, public land purchases, oak forest maturation, bear relocation, and management-based research. The department has been managing bears since the agency's inception in 1916.

Virginia's highest bear populations are still found around the Dismal Swamp and in the western mountains, but they also can occur almost anywhere in the Commonwealth. Today, only some of the middle peninsula, lower peninsula, and Eastern Shore counties do not have recent observations of bears. Bears are commonly associated with forested cover, yet make use of a variety of forest habitat types to meet all their seasonal needs. In spite of expanding human populations and land-use changes, bears have persisted because of their ability to utilize a variety of habitat types.

Assessments of bear population status are obtained by monitoring indices derived from harvest and other mortalities, nuisance activity, and computer modeling. Annual bear hunter harvests mimic population growth. During the 10-year period 1993-2002, Virginia's bear harvest increased at an average annual rate of almost 6 percent per year.

The first Virginia Black Bear Management Plan was completed in 2001 and serves as a blueprint for bear management through 2010. Bear population objectives were established for bear management units throughout the Commonwealth. The objectives were for either stabilizing, increasing or decreasing the bear population in a given unit. Guided by the Bear Management Plan, the department sets hunting seasons to provide a diversity of black bear hunting opportunities in Virginia. Hunting is the most effective method of controlling black bear populations and meeting our population objectives.

After observing years of growing bear populations, and consistent with Virginia's bear management plan, hunting seasons were liberalized across Virginia starting with the 2003-2004 hunting seasons. While regulated hunting is highly effective for controlling bear populations (e.g., stabilizing or decreasing), conservative hunting seasons also are compatible with increasing population management objectives.

In the 2003-04 hunting season, the expansion of bear hunting opportunities and opening of new lands for bear hunting resulted in an increase in the bear harvest. This liberalization in seasons was designed to begin the process of stabilizing bear populations across much of Virginia, reduce human-bear conflicts (particularly around Shenandoah National Park), and provide increased hunter recreation.

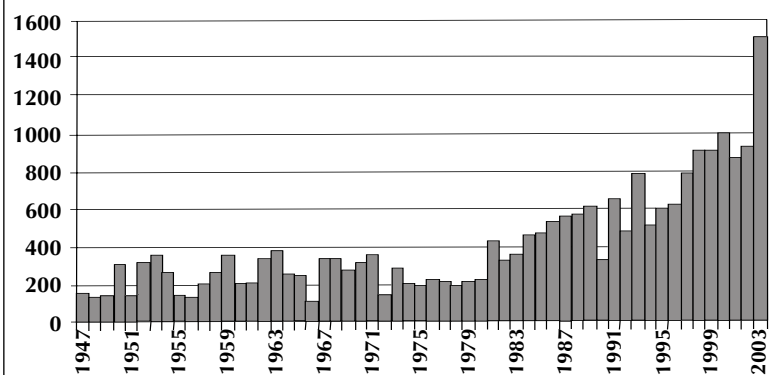
Bear Harvest Top Ten Counties

2003		2002	
Rockingham	176	Rockingham	133
Page	119	Page	71
Albemarle	98	Madison	64
Augusta	88	Augusta	60
Madison	82	Albemarle	52
Shenandoah	75	Nelson	49
Alleghany	70	Highland	47
Bath	70	Rockbridge	46
Rappahannock	70	Warren	44
Botetourt	68	Alleghany	41
		Rappahannock	41
		Shenandoah	41

Unlawful to Feed

It is unlawful for any person to place or distribute food, minerals, carrion, or similar substances to feed or attract bear. Nor, upon written notification by department personnel, shall any person continue to place or distribute any food, mineral, carrion or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the presence of bear in such numbers or circumstances to cause annoyance or inconvenience to any person, cause property damage, or endanger any person or wildlife.

Virginia Black Bear Harvest 1947 to Present



White-tailed Deer Management in Virginia

by

Matt Knox, Deer Project Leader
Nelson Lafon, Assistant Deer Project Leader

Public attention to white-tailed deer is arguably greater than the interest exhibited for any other species of wildlife in Virginia. As Virginia's most popular game species, implications of white-tailed deer range from welcome public viewing and deer hunting opportunities to serious damage and public safety concerns. The divergent citizen interests associated with white-tailed deer provide unique management challenges for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The overall mission of the deer program is to manage the deer resource in the best long-term interests of the citizens of the Commonwealth. It is truer of deer than any other wildlife species that all Virginians have a stake in the Department's deer management programs.

White-tailed deer in Virginia have a remarkable and interesting history. When the first European settlers arrived in North America in 1607 at Jamestown Island, Virginia, they described an animal in abundance, which would become commonly known as the Virginia white-tailed deer.

Following colonization, Virginia's deer population began to decline. In 1699, to address declining deer herds, Virginia was one of the first colonies to set a closed season for hunting deer. Virginia's deer herd reached its lowest point during the early 1900's. By 1900, the deer herd in nearly all of Virginia's Mountain and Piedmont physiographic regions had been extirpated. The 1931 statewide deer population was estimated to be approximately 25,000 animals.

When exactly deer numbers began to increase significantly in Virginia is unknown. After the formation of the Virginia Game Commission in 1916, a considerable amount of time and effort was spent on deer management. In 1926, the Game Commission initiated a deer restoration program. With the exception of several western Piedmont counties that border the Blue Ridge Mountains, nearly all restocking in Virginia was done west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In all, more than 4,200 deer were released.

Current population estimates indicate that Virginia's deer herd has been fairly stable over the past decade, and a conservative estimate of the statewide pre-hunt population has been approximately 800,000-1,000,000 animals.

The cornerstone of Virginia's deer management program is the big game check station system, which allows the Department to effectively monitor annual deer harvests on a county basis. Initiated in 1947, check stations are operated by local volunteers who serve without compensation. In contrast to many states

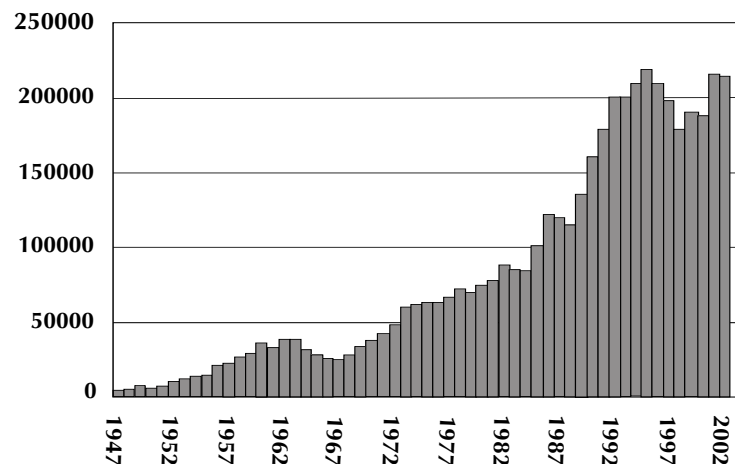
that estimate their annual deer harvest(s), Virginia's deer harvest figures represent an actual known minimum count. The check station system provides harvest figures that the public understands and has confidence in.

Deer management in Virginia is characterized by two distinct zones of tradition and regulation, east of the Blue Ridge Mountains and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Deer hunting east of the Blue Ridge Mountains is strongly rooted in a private land hunting club tradition, where use of hounds and a seven-week long general firearms season prevails. Conversely, west of the Blue Ridge Mountains dog hunting is prohibited by state law, hunting clubs are rare, nearly two million acres of public lands are available for hunting, and the general firearms season is 13 days long. Historically, bag limits and either-sex deer hunting opportunities west of the Blue Ridge Mountains have been more conservative than those in eastern Virginia.

In Virginia, deer harvest objectives and regulations are set on a county basis. There are currently 99 county management units ranging in size from 26 to 1,112 square miles in area (average = 401 square miles). For deer population management purposes, there are only three logical population objectives: increase the deer population, stabilize the deer population, or reduce the deer population.

At the state level, deer harvest regulations are evaluated and amended every other year on odd years. Depending on management goals and the current status of the deer herd, regulation amendments may involve an adjustment in season length(s), bag limit(s), and/or the number of general firearms season either-sex deer hunting day(s) on a county basis. Deer management in Virginia is predicated on the fact that herd density and health are best controlled by regulating antlerless deer kill levels. Management objectives are accomplished by increasing or decreasing the number of either-sex deer hunting days during the general firearms season. Deer hunting is a viable, cost-efficient management tool that not only maintains a healthy deer re-

Virginia Deer Kill, 1947 to Present



source, but also diminishes deer crop damage levels, deer-vehicle collision rates, and deer-ecosystem impacts.

Under optimum conditions, deer populations can double in size annually. Lacking an external regulating factor (e.g., predators, hunting, etc.) deer populations will generally expand to the point where food resources are limiting or exhausted. In unmanaged populations, the food supply controls deer numbers. This is the concept of biological carrying capacity (BCC). The BCC is the maximum number of deer that can be sustained over time. BCC is a function of the quality and quantity of habitat. It is not a function of deer. A habitat's BCC is not, however, a fixed number. Habitat carrying capacity changes seasonally and annually, with winter being the limiting season over most of Virginia. Deer herds that expand to the BCC are frequently, but inaccurately, called overpopulated.

Today, with the exception of several counties in far southwestern Virginia and on selected National Forest lands in western Virginia, the emphasis of Virginia's deer management program has switched from establishing and expanding deer herds to controlling their growth. This change in management direction has resulted in liberal harvest regulations and an increasing kill of antlerless deer.

Change in deer management direction from establishing and allowing deer herd expansion to controlling population growth has been based on the cultural carrying capacity (CCC). CCC is defined as the maximum number of deer that can coexist compatibly with humans. CCC is a function of the tolerance of humans to deer and the effects of deer. The CCC for deer generally occurs well below the biological carrying capacity (BCC). For example, deer-vehicle collisions are one of the most critical deer damage demands in Virginia. Although reliable data are not available, it is safe to assume that tens of thousands of deer-vehicle collisions take place in the Commonwealth each year.

White-tailed deer are the most popular game species in the Commonwealth. In any given year over a quarter million Virginia deer hunters, including over 60,000 bow hunters and nearly 120,000 muzzleloader hunters, will spend approximately four million days afield hunting deer and kill on average more than 200,000 animals. Nearly 90 percent of Virginia hunters hunt deer, and over half of all days spent afield hunting in Virginia in any given year are spent in pursuit of deer.

Special Deer Management Programs:

Deer hunting regulations are established over large areas to be as simple and uniform as possible and to avoid confusion (i.e., on a county basis). To set regulations on this basis, however, is to assume that deer habitats, deer densities, and hunter pressures and public demands are similar over the entire area. Because these assumptions are not always true, regulations set over a large area will in some areas be too conservative and in some areas too liberal. To meet unique deer management circumstances in these areas, alternative site-specific management regulations and programs must be developed and implemented (e.g., DMAP, DCAP, etc.).

DCAP Damage Control Assistance Program

DCAP is a site-specific deer damage program that increases a landowner's management options by allowing a more liberal kill reduction of antlerless deer during the hunting season. The primary objective is the control of crop depredation by deer or other personal property damage. Secondary objectives are to maximize deer hunter participation in damage control efforts and to shift out of season kill permit deer kill into the open deer season. DCAP is available to landowners over most of the state at no charge. In order to participate in DCAP, a landowner must contact their local Game Warden when deer damage is occurring to their agricultural crops or personal property. DCAP permits are issued on a per property unit basis with a minimum issuance rate of 5 permits per property with a maximum of 25 per property. If eligible, a landowner will be mailed information on the rules of the program along with their tags. For more information on the DCAP program contact your local Game Warden, the region office serving your county (see listing on page 3) or visit the department's Web site.

DMAP Deer Management Assistance Program

DMAP is a site-specific deer management program that also increases a landowner's or hunt club's management options by allowing a more liberal kill of antlerless deer during the hunting season. The primary goal is to allow landowners and hunt clubs to work together on a local level to manage their deer herd to meet their own goals. Secondary objectives are to increase the Department's biological database and to improve communication between deer hunters, landowners, and the Department. DMAP is open to every club or landowner in the state at no charge. In order to participate in DMAP, a new club or landowner must apply prior to September 15th. Applications are available from department offices or any wildlife biologist. Eligible applicants will receive materials in the mail outlining the rules and requirements of the program, and all first year cooperators will be required to meet with their district wildlife biologist prior to their first season in the program. All program participants must collect biological deer harvest data for one hunting season prior to becoming eligible for DMAP tags. For more information regarding the DMAP program visit the department's Web site.

Two Deer Diseases Virginia Deer Hunters Should Know About

Hemorrhagic Disease (HD)

HD is the most important infectious disease of white-tailed deer in the Southeast United States and in Virginia, and outbreaks occur almost every year. HD is caused by two closely related viruses and is transmitted by tiny biting flies commonly known as biting midges or by local names such as sand gnats, sand flies, no-see-ums and punkies. HD typically occurs from mid-August through October, and this seasonality is related to the abundance of the biting midges. The onset of freezing weather, which stops the midges, brings a sudden end to HD outbreaks. Outward signs in live deer depend partly on the potency of the virus and duration of infection. Many affected deer appear normal or show only mild signs of illness. When illness occurs, the signs change as the disease progresses. Initially animals may be depressed, feverish, have a swollen head, neck, tongue, or eyelids, or have difficulty breathing. With highly virulent strains of the virus, deer may die within 1 to 3 days. More often, deer survive longer and may become lame, lose their appetite, or reduce their activity.

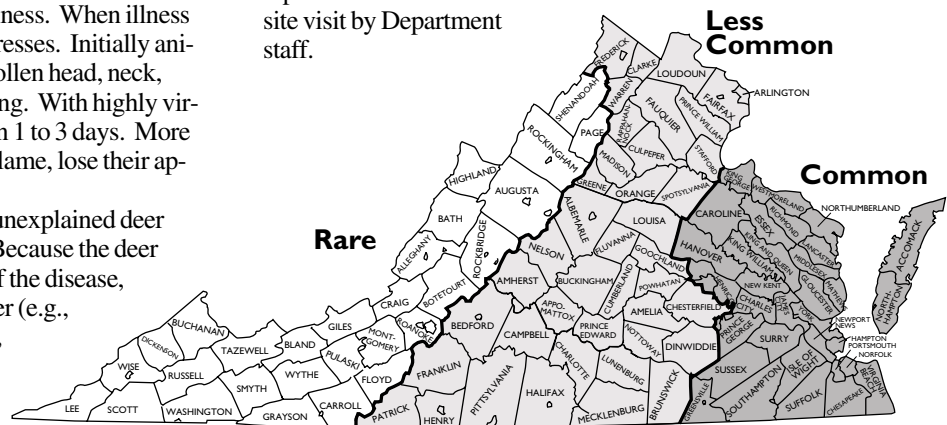
HD should be suspected in instances of unexplained deer mortality during late summer or early fall. Because the deer have a high fever during the first few days of the disease, dead or dying deer are often found near water (e.g., lying on or near the banks of ditches, creeks, lakes, rivers, etc.) lying on the cool moist soil.

HD occurs annually, but its severity and distribution are highly variable. Past

occurrences have ranged from a few scattered mild cases to dramatic widespread outbreaks in 1999 and 2002.

Humans are not at risk by handling infected deer, eating venison from infected deer, or being bitten by infected biting midges. However, deer that develop bacterial infections or abscesses secondary to HD may not be suitable for consumption.

What should you do if you find what you think is a dead or dying HD deer? Do not attempt to contact, disturb, kill, or remove the animal. Please report the approximate location of the animal to the Department at 1-804-367-1258 or to the department office nearest you. Please be advised that unless there are extenuating circumstances, the HD report will not result in an on-site visit by Department staff.



Distribution and prevalence of HD in Virginia

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

CWD is a progressive brain and nervous system disease found in deer and elk. The disease ultimately results in the affected animal's death. Species naturally affected include elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and black-tailed deer. To date, the disease has only been found in deer and elk in North America. CWD is known to occur in free-ranging deer or elk in Colorado, Illinois, Nebraska, New Mexico, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

In Virginia, samples collected from over 1,200 deer during the past four years all tested negative for CWD. Deer were sampled from every county in the Commonwealth.

In early stages of infection, animals do not show any symptoms. The incubation period can range from about 12-18 months up to 3-5 years. In later stages, infected animals begin to display abnormal behavior such as staggering or standing with very poor posture. Animals may carry the head and ears lowered. In later stages of the disease, infected animals become emaciated (wasting) and appear in very poor body condition. Clinical symptoms are typically not seen in deer younger than 18 months of age.

If you see a deer with these symptoms do not attempt to contact, disturb, kill, or remove the animal. You should accurately document the location of the animal and immediately contact

the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) at 1-804-367-1258 or your nearest department office. Arrangements will be made to investigate the report if a biologist determines further investigation is warranted. If you kill a severely emaciated deer or a deer that is obviously sick, contact your nearest Department office.

The number one objective in the management of CWD is to prevent its spread into new areas. One possible mode of disease transmission is by the importation of infected carcasses. In an effort to minimize the risk of disease spread, a number of states have adopted regulations relative to the interstate transportation of hunter-harvested deer and elk.

The following states and provinces have adopted some form of carcass transportation regulations: California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, and Vermont. A summary of state-by-state carcass transportation regulations is provided on the CWD Alliance Web site (www.cwd-info.org) under the policy/legislative section. Since these regulations are continually evolving, it is recommended that, before hunting, you check the CWD regulations in your home state, the state in which you will be hunting, and states in which you will travel through en route home from your hunting area. Please note at this time Virginia has not adopted any deer carcass importation regulations.

Small Game

by Mike Fies
Furbearer Project Leader

Quail

No other game bird embodies Virginia's rich Southern heritage like the bobwhite quail. A pair of well-trained bird dogs staunchly "honoring" each other's point, a thunderous covey rise in a field of golden broomstraw, the sound of a weathered double-barrel shotgun piercing the brisk morning air. These are the things that traditions are made of. Sadly, however, Virginia's quail population has declined dramatically in recent decades. "What happened to all the quail?" is one of the most frequently asked questions by Virginia sportsmen. It's a difficult question with no simple answer.

Although the reasons for the bobwhite decline are many, the most important factor adversely affecting quail numbers has been the loss of suitable habitat. Changing land use patterns and the increased intensity of land use have had profound effects on the availability and quality of quail habitat in this state. Virginia's farmland has been disappearing at an alarming rate, primarily to urban development. Changes in farm technology and a slumping agricultural economy have necessitated more intensive use of the acres that remain. There can be no doubt that the downward trend in Virginia's quail population levels can be directly attributed to deteriorating habitat conditions.

There is some good news, however. Even though long-term quail populations are down, recent surveys suggest that bobwhite numbers have stabilized during the past several years. In some regions, quail numbers have even increased slightly. During the 2002-2003 season, quail hunter success in the Tidewater region was higher than it had been in more than 10 years. In general, quail tend to be more numerous the further south and east you travel in the state, reaching their greatest densities in the southern Coastal Plain. It's true that quail are scarce in many areas, but they remain locally abundant in others. Currently, quail numbers likely exceed 1 million birds statewide.

The best quail hunting of 2004-2005 will likely be found in the Tidewater region where populations have traditionally been highest. Hunter success in the East Piedmont region will probably be comparable, but slightly lower than the Tidewater area. Hunters in the West Piedmont and Northern portions of the state will have to search larger areas to find coveys and should prepare for some long days afield. The poorest hunting success is expected in the western mountain counties, where habitat is limited and coveys are scarce.

If you're one of those dedicated sportsmen attempting to perpetuate Virginia's quail hunting legacy, there is still room for optimism. If you hunt hard and with realistic expectations, you can still experience some enjoyable days afield. The "good ol' days" are likely a memory in most regions of the state, but the bobwhite is a resilient bird. Populations can rebound quickly when habitat conditions are favorable. Reversing the bobwhite decline is a difficult challenge, but one worthy of great effort. Hopefully, you're doing your part!



©Len Rue, Jr.

Rabbits

For the past five years, rabbit hunters in Virginia have enjoyed bountiful seasons. According to Department surveys, statewide rabbit populations increased from 1999 to 2001, dropped in 2002, then increased again in 2003. In fact, cottontail observations along survey routes were higher in 2003 than during any year since the survey was started in 1988. As a result, many rabbit hunters jumped more cottontails this past season than during the past several years.

Annual fluctuations in rabbit numbers are usually in response to local weather conditions. So far, conditions appear favorable for further population growth. Warm winter temperatures and below-average snowfall accumulations likely enhanced winter survival by extending the usefulness of weedy areas for escape cover. Mild weather conditions also provided rabbits with prolonged access to nutritious green food plants and enabled them to enter the breeding season in good physical condition. Rainfall during the late winter was adequate enough to create lush nesting conditions. Hopefully, rabbits took full advantage of these favorable circumstances and produced a good first litter.

Drought conditions that often occur later in the summer can adversely affect the propensity of rabbits to reproduce. When the rain quits falling, many formerly lush nesting areas are transformed into brown vegetation and bare soil. When vegetation is sparse and food availability is limited, rabbits travel larger areas and are more susceptible to predation. Survival of nestlings is also reduced when cover is inadequate to provide sufficient concealment. As a result, the number of juvenile rabbits produced during years with below-average rainfall usually decreases. Even when weather conditions are favorable for rabbits during the early breeding season, it's possible for a summer drought to cause an overall population decline.

Regardless of weather impacts, veteran rabbit hunters know that a few rabbits can almost always be found in pockets of good habitat. Areas with thick brush, lots of briars, and plenty of escape cover are most productive. The best rabbit hunting opportunities are usually on private lands. Brushy farm fields and young cutovers are good areas to try. If you don't have access to private lands, areas of suitable cover can also be found on public wildlife management areas, National Forest lands, and military installations. Keep in mind, however, that these public areas are heavily hunted and intense hunting pressure makes rabbits difficult to locate late in the season.

Wild Turkey Management

by Gary Norman,
Forest Game Bird Project Leader

Wild turkeys were believed to be abundant throughout Virginia when it was first explored and developed in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. However, populations declined sharply by the turn of the 20th century due to over-harvest from market hunting and habitat losses from farming and forestry. By 1910, turkeys had disappeared from 2/3 of Virginia and they had become rare in other sections. Concern for wild turkey conservation led to the passage of the "Robin Bill" in Virginia during 1912 which prohibited the sale on the open markets of wild turkey and several other species of birds. However, enforcement of the "Robin Bill" and other legislation restricting hunting methods and bag limits did not come until 1916, with the creation of the Game Department.

The next milestone in turkey conservation came in 1929 when the Game Commission began a restocking program using turkeys reared at game farms. Game farm turkeys could easily be propagated, and the Game Commission raised and released several thousand birds before we realized these birds were not capable of surviving and reproducing in the wild. In 1936, the Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit was established under the direction of C. O. Handley. Their first priority was to develop a satisfactory propagation method to re-establish turkey populations. Many modifications of breeding, raising, and releasing game farm turkeys were attempted from 1936 to 1955. All totaled, the Commission raised and released over 22,000 game farm turkeys. In the final analysis, however, very little, if any, credit can be given to these efforts at establishing wild turkey populations in any locality in Virginia.

A new procedure was developed in 1955 whereby native wild turkeys were trapped and transferred to areas with suitable habitat. This method proved highly successful, and from 1955 to 1993 nearly 900 wild turkeys were trapped and relocated in Virginia, primarily to the Southwest and Tidewater regions.

Fall hunting for wild turkeys has been a long-established tradition in Virginia. However, spring gobbler hunting is a relatively recent management program that was initiated in 1962 as an experimental season on some public lands in western Virginia. The experimental season was quickly adopted as it was determined that spring hunting was biologically feasible and interest in spring hunting increased.

Wild turkeys are now found throughout the Commonwealth and probably number around 180,000 birds. Turkey hunting is a popular sport with nearly 64,000 hunters participating in the fall season and almost 61,000 in the spring season.

Our current wild turkey management program is a comprehensive effort that involves harvest management, research, and habitat management. Harvest goals are a critical consideration for turkey management in the Commonwealth. In general, seasons are set to offer quality hunting experiences for both fall and spring hunters. The length of the fall season is a critical factor that regulates population and harvest levels. The state is separated into 3 fall season structures that feature either 2, 4, or 6 weeks

of fall hunting. The length of the fall season depends on the status of the turkey population and local (county) attitudes regarding fall hunting. Most of the harvest management decisions are based on research that has been conducted by the Department to identify factors limiting turkey population dynamics. This research has involved trapping, radio marking, and monitoring more than 1,000 wild turkey hens. Other Department research has evaluated the effectiveness of different habitat management programs, the importance of weather on reproduction, effects of mast on harvest rates, poaching, and hunter attitudes. Lastly, the Department's land management programs on state-owned Wildlife Management Areas emphasizes wild turkey in many areas. Other cooperators including the US Forest Service manage critical clearings and field throughout western Virginia for the benefit of wild turkey and other forest wildlife.

Turkey Hunters Contribute to Management

Each year thousands of successful fall wild turkey hunters take their prize bag to a big game check station to report their harvest. During the checking process check station operators collect breast and wing feathers. These feathers are then used by Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Biologists to estimate the age and sex of harvested birds. The ratio of juveniles to adult females in the fall harvest serves as an index to annual reproductive success. These data help managers better understand fluctuations in harvest and population dynamics.

Biologists examine feathers from the breast to determine sex of the bird. Breast feathers from females are brown on the tip and the edge of the feather is jagged. In contrast, males have black-tipped breast feathers with a distinct smooth edge. The primary or flight feathers are used to determine age of the birds. Pointed primaries without white barring on the tip are juveniles. Rounded primaries with barring to the end of the feather are adults.

In the field hunters can look for key differences in size and color in determining age and sex of turkeys. The illustrations on the opposite page show the main characteristics for identifying adults from juveniles, gobblers from hens.

Turkey Facts

- Virginia's wild turkey population is estimated at 180,000 birds
- Turkeys begin their courtship in late March and early April.
- Peak gobbling in Virginia normally is in early May
- Egg laying begins around mid-April
- Peak of nest incubation is normally the first week of May (May 5).
- Hatching takes place 28 days later, normally during the first week of June.
- Acorns are favored foods of turkey.
- Oak mast crops have a significant impact on fall turkey harvests. The harvest declines in years with good mast crops while during mast failures birds are more vulnerable to hunting and predation.

Adult or Juvenile? Gobbler or Hen?

Juvenile turkeys can be distinguished from adults by the longer middle tail feathers.



HEAD: feathers only to base of head; colors variable red, white and blue



FOOT: greater than 4.5 inches

PLUMAGE: overall metallic

BREAST FEATHER: black tip



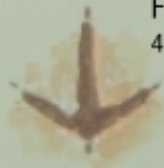
BEARD: evident; up to 12 inches

SPUR: bump to 1+ inch



TARSUS LENGTH: 6 inches

DROPPINGS: J-shaped



FOOT: less than 4.5 inches

PLUMAGE: duller, light brown

BREAST FEATHER: buff-colored tip



HEAD: feathers on crown; light blue

BEARD: usually none

TARSUS LENGTH: 4.5 inches

SPUR: absent

DROPPINGS: coiled or curled



- Illustrations by Bob Sopchick -

Gobbler

Hen

Reprinted with permission of the Pennsylvania Game Commission

2004 - 2005 Quota Hunts

General Information/Application

The Department's Quota Hunts requires hunters to apply pre-season and be selected by random drawing to hunt waterfowl, and/or big and small game. A non-refundable application fee of \$ 6.00 will be applied to **each** hunt. A hunter may apply by mail, telephone or through the Agency Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov. When applying by mail, fill-out the enclosed application or download the application from the Agency Web site. Mail application to: Virginia Quota Hunts, c/o CyberData, Inc., Hicksville, New York 11802. Remit check(s) payable to: CyberData, Inc. When applying by telephone, please have your credit card number available, call between the hours of 9:30 A.M.– 4:30 P.M.; 1-877-VAHUNTS (1-877-824-8687). **NOTE:** Hunters will be notified by mail if selected or not selected for each hunt applied.

Waterfowl

Hog Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Waterfowl Hunts Series #101

Hunt **waterfowl** on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. Hunt includes half day hunting for each Saturday during the last segments of the general duck season. Each hunting party is provided a blind, boat and decoys for the day. Eleven hunters are selected for each day of hunting and each hunter is allowed to bring two guests. Limited access to the area requires hunters be transported by Department personnel to their blind location. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt dates: To be announced September 1, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Applications due: October 22, 2004

Princess Anne WMA Waterfowl Hunts Series #102

Hunt **waterfowl** on the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. Hunt includes half day hunting for each Wednesday during the last segments of the general duck season. Each hunting party is provided a blind, boat and decoys for the half day. Four hunters will be randomly selected for each day of hunting. Selected hunters may bring two guests. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt dates: To be announced September 1, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Applications due: October 22, 2004

Dutch Gap Conservation Area Waterfowl Hunts Series #103

Hunt **waterfowl** on the Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chesterfield County. Hunt days are during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. Three hunters will be randomly selected

for each set of hunt dates. Hunting is from floating blinds at designated blind stakes. No boats or decoys are provided with this hunt.

Hunt dates: To be announced September 1, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Applications due: October 22, 2004

Tundra Swan Permit Series #104

Tundra Swan hunting is by permit only. The Agency will randomly issue 600 permits. Each permit holder will be authorized to take one Tundra Swan during the season. The hunt area is limited to east of U.S. Route I-95 and south of Chopawamsic Creek on the Prince William / Stafford County line.

TUNDRA SWAN season: To be announced September 1, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Applications due: October 22, 2004

Lake Orange Waterfowl Hunts Series #105

Hunt **waterfowl** on Lake Orange, Orange County. Hunt days are every Saturday during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. One hunter will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Hunting will only be allowed on a designated section of Lake Orange. Floating blinds, anchored within 50 feet of shore or portable blinds will be allowed along the designated shoreline.

Hunt dates: To be announced September 1, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Applications due: October 22, 2004

Dick Cross WMA Waterfowl Hunts Series #106

Hunt **waterfowl** on designated impoundments at the Dick Cross WMA in Mecklenburg County. Hunt days are every Wednesday during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Two hunters will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Hunts end at 12:00 Noon each Wednesday. Selected hunters may bring two guests. Hunters must provide decoys. Dogs are allowed.

Hunt dates: To be announced September 1, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Applications due: October 22, 2004

Princess Anne WMA Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts Series #107

Hunt **waterfowl** for half day on the waters of Back Bay in the City of Virginia Beach. There are 51 floating blind stakes available for hunting. Blind stakes and hunt dates will be randomly selected. Hunters can expect multiple hunt days when participating in this hunt. Each hunter selected is allowed to bring two guests. Limited water access to the area requires that all hunting parties have a boat/ float blind and float blind license. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 P. M. and have all decoys retrieved and be away from the blind stakes by 2:00 P.M. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the

hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time!

Hunt days: Opening days, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Virginia State Holidays.

Hunt dates: To be announced September 1, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Applications due: October 22, 2004

Deer

Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts

Series # 201

Hunt **white-tailed deer** during the Early Special Archery season on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates archery: October 2-6 (no Sunday hunting), 7-9, 11-13, 14-16, 18-20.

Applications due: September 10, 2004

Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts

Series # 202

Hunt **white-tailed deer** during the Early Special Muzzleloading season on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates muzzleloader: Oct. 21-23, 25-27, 28-30.

Applications due: September 10, 2004

Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts

Series # 203

Hunt **white-tailed deer** during the Early Special Firearm seasons on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates firearm: Nov. 1-3, 4-6.

Applications due: September 10, 2004

Mockhorn Island WMA Deer Hunts

Series # 204

Hunt **white-tailed deer** on the GATR Tract of Mockhorn Island WMA, Northampton County, during the special muzzleloader deer season. The GATR Tract is the mainland part of Mockhorn Island WMA on the Eastern Shore. A total of two hunters are selected for each set of hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates muzzleloader: Oct. 30 – Nov. 2 (no Sunday hunting), Nov. 3-5, Nov. 6-9, Nov. 10-12.

Applications due: September 10, 2004

Radford Army Ammunition Plant Deer Hunts

Series # 205

Hunt quality **white-tailed deer** at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP) in Pulaski County. Bow hunting and shotgun hunting are allowed. Hunters and the day they will hunt are selected by computer drawing. Applications are limited to

one hunter per year. A list of "Frequently Asked Questions" about the Radford Hunt is posted on at www.dgif.virginia.gov; go to Hunting, Quota Hunts.

Hunt dates archery: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 2004

Hunt dates firearm: Nov. 20, 24, 27 and Dec. 1 & 4, 2004

Applications due: September 10, 2004

Dismal Swamp WMA Hunts

Series # 206

Hunt **white-tailed deer**, and any other legal game species in season during the General Deer Firearm season in the City of Chesapeake. A total of ten hunters are selected for each set of hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates firearm: Oct. 1-2 (two day hunt), Oct. 4-9, Oct. 11-16, Oct. 18-23, Oct. 25-30, Nov. 1-6, Nov. 8-13, Nov. 15-20, Nov. 22-27.

Applications due: September 10, 2004

Generation Deer Hunts, Occoquan NWR

Series # 207

Hunting opportunity for youth (ages 12 thru 17) to hunt **white-tailed deer** on the Occoquan National Wildlife Refuge in Prince William County. The Department in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will host two youth hunting days. Fifteen youth hunters will be randomly selected on each hunt day. Youth hunters must have completed a Hunter Education course. Hunt rules and certification requirements will be mailed to successful applicants.

Hunt dates: Nov. 20, Dec. 20, 2004

Applications due: September 10, 2004

Novice Deer Hunt, Occoquan NWR

Series # 208

Hunting opportunity for individuals that have never harvested a **white-tailed deer**. Individuals will hunt on the Occoquan National Wildlife Refuge in Prince William County. The Department in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will host one novice hunt day. Fifteen novice hunters will be randomly selected. Hunters must have completed a Hunter Education course. Hunt rules and certification requirements will be mailed to successful applicants.

Hunt date: November, 22, 2004

Applications due: September 10, 2004

Spring Turkey

Mockhorn Island WMA Spring Turkey Hunts

Series #209

Hunt **spring gobblers** on the GATR Tract of Mockhorn Island WMA, Northampton County. The GATR Tract is the mainland part of Mockhorn Island WMA on the Eastern Shore. A total of one hunter is selected for each hunt segment. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. April 2, 2005 is a youth turkey hunting day. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on this day. To apply for the YOUTH HUNTING DAY applicants must be licensed adults 18 years old or older. The successful applicant may chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger on April 2.

continued on page 48

Hunt dates: April 2 (Youth Day), April 9–13, April 14–16, April 18–20, April 21–23, April 25–27, April 28–30, May 2–4, May 5–7, May 9–11, and May 12–14.

Applications due: October 22, 2004

Jan. 17–22, Jan. 24–29, Jan. 31–Feb. 5 (quail ends Jan. 31st), Feb. 7–12 (rabbit), Woodcock season to be announced July 15, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Applications due: September 10, 2004

Small Game

Amelia WMA Quail, Rabbit, and Woodcock Hunts

Series # 301

Hunt **quail, rabbit and woodcock** in season on the Amelia WMA in Amelia County. Four successful applicants will be drawn to hunt 1-day during each week when the season is open for hunting woodcock, quail, or rabbits. The successful applicant and two guests (maximum three per party) may choose to hunt any day during the week for which they are drawn. Hunters are required to complete and submit a questionnaire regarding their hunting efforts.

Hunt Dates: Nov. 1–6 (rabbit), Nov. 8–13 (quail / rabbit), Nov. 15–20, Nov. 22–27, Nov. 29–Dec. 4, Dec. 6–11, Dec. 13–18, Dec. 20–25, Dec. 27–Jan 1, 2005, Jan. 3–8, Jan. 10–15,

NOTE: For information on Agency Quota Hunts go to: www.dgif.virginia.gov, select Hunting, Quota Hunts.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

Application For 2004 RAAP Deer Hunt

Instructions

One application per applicant/co-applicant. Submitting more than one application will not increase your chances of being drawn. A non-refundable application fee of \$6.00 is required. No Cash. Money Orders, Personal or Cashiers Checks made out to: *CyberData, Inc.*

Mail to: Virginia Quota Hunts, c/o CyberData Inc., P.O. Box 9009, Hicksville, NY 11802. Application must be received on or before September 10, 2004 to be included in the drawing. Applicants must be at least 12 years of age to participate. Applicants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult possessing a valid hunting license.

Hunting Choice: (Check One) ☐ Antlerless Only ☐ Either-Sex*

*Qualification Required - Must Have Previously Participated In An Antlerless Hunt

Weapon Choice: (Check One) ☐ Shotgun ☐ Archery*

*Qualification Required - Skills Test

Applicant

Last Name

Address

City, State, ZIP

Daytime Phone

Date of Birth (required for processing)

First Name

Nighttime Phone

Co-Applicant

Last Name

Address

City, State, ZIP

Daytime Phone

Date of Birth (required for processing)

First Name

Nighttime Phone

Stands for Mobility Impaired- There are a limited number of wheelchair accessible stands.

☐ Please check if you are mobility impaired and interested in applying for one of these stands.

☐ I will be accompanied by a non-hunting assistant

Assistant's Name and Date Of Birth: _____



DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES

2004-2005 HUNTING SEASON QUOTA HUNTS



APPLY ONLINE

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov>
It's fast & easy!

OR

APPLY BY MAIL

Apply online for the 2004-2005 Quota Hunts. It's the fastest and easiest way! Application fee by credit card payment only. On the internet, go to: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov> and look for the link to "Quota Hunts." NOTE: Applications will be accepted until close of business on the due date specified for that particular hunt.

1 SELECT HUNTS TO APPLY FOR

Check the boxes of the hunts you want to apply for and specify your hunt day preference. Indicate if you are willing to accept any hunt day in the event you do not win for your hunt day preference. You may apply for each hunt only one time. Duplicate entries for the same hunt will be disqualified.

#	TITLE	I will accept any date		HUNT DAY PREF.	APP DUE
		Y	N		
<input type="checkbox"/> 101	Hog Island WMA Waterfowl Blind Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		10/22/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 102	Princess Anne WMA Waterfowl Blind Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		10/22/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 103	Dutch Gap Conservation Area Waterfowl Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		10/22/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 104	Tundra Swan Permit			N/A	10/22/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 105	Lake Orange Waterfowl Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		10/22/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 106	Dick Cross WMA Waterfowl Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		10/22/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 107	Princess Anne Float Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		10/22/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 201	Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts (Archery)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		9/10/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 202	Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts (Muzzleloader)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		9/10/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 203	Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts (Firearm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		9/10/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 204	Mockhorn Island WMA Deer Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		9/10/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 206	Dismal Swamp WMA Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		9/10/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 207	Deer Generation Hunts (Youth)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		9/10/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 208	Novice Deer Hunt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		9/10/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 209	Mockhorn Island WMA Spring Turkey Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		10/22/04
<input type="checkbox"/> 301	Amelia WMA Quail, Rabbit & Woodcock Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		9/10/04

2 CALCULATE FEES

OF HUNTS SELECTED X \$6.00 (each) = TOTAL \$.00

A non-refundable application fee of \$6.00 per hunt applies. Make check payable to CyberData, Inc.

3 ENTER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Fill in all fields. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Please print clearly.

APPLICANT NAME:

Last	First	M.I.
------	-------	------

MAILING ADDRESS:

Street	
City	State
Zip Code	

DAYTIME PHONE#:

	DATE OF BIRTH:
--	----------------

EVENING PHONE#:

	2004-05 HUNTING LIC #-(REQUIRED)
--	----------------------------------

EMAIL ADDRESS:

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☐ I want to be notified of my drawing status by E-MAIL instead of U.S. Mail.

4 MAIL APPLICATION (WITH FEE) TO:

Virginia Quota Hunts
c/o CyberData, Inc.
P.O. Box 9009
Hicksville, New York 11802

Include a **non-refundable** application fee of \$6.00 for **each** hunt applied for. Make check payable to: **CyberData, Inc.**

All winning applicants will be notified by mail or email of their drawing result. All permits are **non-transferable**. Guest(s) must be accompanied by the permit holder.

Application by Phone: Available Monday - Friday (9:30 am - 4:30 pm EST) Call 1-877-VAHUNTS
(credit cards only for application fee.)

2004-2005 Managed Hunts and Workshops

The Department's Managed Hunts are generally by on-site random drawings or by application through the local Regional Wildlife Office. Hunting opportunities are provided on four Department Wildlife Management Areas. For information on Managed Hunts, go to the Agency Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov, select Managed Hunts.

Waterfowl

Hog Island WMA September Waterfowl Hunts

Hunt **resident Canada geese and teal** when in season on Opening Day of the Resident Goose Season and each Saturday for half a day on Hog Island WMA in Surry County. A total of 30 hunters are selected each morning of the hunt. The Department in cooperation with the Wildlife Foundation will host a youth waterfowl hunting day the 2nd Saturday of the resident goose season (to be announced July 15, 2004, see Agency Web site). The hunt is restricted to youths (15 years of age and under) and each youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult (only the youth may carry a firearm). There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt days: Opening Day and Saturdays.

Hunt dates: To be announced July 15, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Drawing begins promptly at 5:00 a.m.

Hog Island–Youth Waterfowl Day

This is an opportunity for youth to hunt **waterfowl** on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. The Department in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited will host a youth waterfowl hunting day on October (to be announced July 15, 2004, see Agency Web site). Only youths may hunt and carry a firearm. All youth hunters are to be registered for this event. To register contact the Williamsburg Regional Office after September 1, 2004 at 757/253-7072. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult. Activities include: a morning hunt, retriever demonstration, waterfowl calling, decoy set-up and rocket net demonstration.

Hunt date: To be announced September 1, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Hunters to arrive promptly at 5:00 a.m.

Princess Anne WMA Float Blind September Canada Goose/Teal Hunts and October Waterfowl

Hunt **September Canada geese/teal and waterfowl** (during the October waterfowl season) on the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. The areas (51) float blind stakes will be first come, first serve. Hunters are not allowed to tie-up to blind stakes before 5:00 a.m. Half-day (until 1:00 P.M.) hunting allowed on Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and

State Holidays. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. **You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time.** Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt days: Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays.

Hunt dates: To be announced July 15, 2004 for September Geese and Teal (see Agency Web site).

To be announced September 1, 2004 for the October Waterfowl Season (see Agency Web site).

Hunters may not tie up to blind stakes until 5:00 a.m.

Princess Anne WMA Stationary Blind September Canada Goose/Teal Hunts and October Waterfowl

This is an opportunity to hunt **September Canada geese/teal and waterfowl** (during the October waterfowl season) on the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. The areas four blinds will be first come first serve. Three-person parties can enjoy a half-day (until 1:00 P.M.) hunting on Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays. Hunters are required to park in the designated parking area off Munden Road.

Hunt days: Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays.

Hunt dates: To be announced July 15, 2004 for September Geese and Teal (see Agency Web site).

To be announced September 1, 2004 for the October Waterfowl Season (see Agency Web site).

Hunters may not occupy blinds before 5:00 A.M.

Princess Anne WMA Late Snow Goose Hunts

The Princess Anne WMA will provide float blind stakes in Back Bay to hunt every day for late season **snow geese**. These hunts will be permitted after general duck season and will be on



Lee Walker

a first come, first served basis. Daily hunting times will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.

Season dates: To be announced September 1, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Princess Anne WMA – Youth Waterfowl Day

Float blind stakes will be open on a first come, first served basis to youths 15 years or younger when accompanied by an adult. The Department in cooperation with Virginia Waterfowlers Association will host a youth waterfowl hunting day on October (to be announced September 1, 2004, see Agency Web site). Only youths may hunt and carry a firearm. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult. A maximum of ten youth hunters will be registered for this event. Registration will be first come first serve. To register contact the Williamsburg Regional Office after September 1, 2004 at 757/253-7072. Activities include: a morning hunt, retriever demonstration, waterfowl calling, and decoy set-up.

Hunt day: To be announced September 1, 2004 (see Agency Web site).

Hunters to arrive promptly at 5:00 a.m.

Deer Hunts– Disabled Hunters

C.F. Phelps WMA Deer Hunt for the Disabled

This is an opportunity for persons with permanent disabilities to hunt **white-tailed deer** on the Hogue Tract of the C.F. Phelps WMA in Fauquier County. Two disabled hunters per day are chosen to hunt during the archery, muzzleloader and general firearms deer seasons. Each successful applicant may be accompanied by one companion, who may hunt if properly licensed. Applications for this special hunt must include the name, date of birth, address and telephone number (business and home), hunting license number, vehicle description and vehicle license number of the disabled hunter and companion hunter, and 2 preferred hunting dates. The application should be mailed to: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, ATTN: Hogue Tract Hunt, 1320 Belman Road, Fredericksburg, VA. 22401. Applications must be received by the close of business on October 1, 2004.

Hunt dates archery: October 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 2004

Hunt dates muzzleloader: October 30, November 1, 3, 6, 8, and 10, 2004

Hunt dates general firearms: November 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, and 27, 2004

Fairystone WMA Deer Hunt for the Disabled

This is an opportunity for disabled hunters during the early muzzleloader and general firearms seasons within the Quality Deer Management portion of Fairystone Farms Wildlife Management Area in Patrick County. A daily maximum of seven disabled hunters will be allowed access to specially-constructed ground blinds. Successful applicants will be allowed 3 successive days of deer hunting opportunities. To qualify, each applicant must be permanently confined to a wheel chair or require permanent use of ambulatory aids (crutches, walkers, leg

braces, etc.). One companion will be allowed to assist the disabled hunter and will also be allowed to hunt. Applications for this special hunt must include the name, address and telephone number (business and home) of the disabled hunter and companion hunter, and 3 preferred sets of hunting date(s). The application should be mailed to: Fairystone Special Hunter Program, DGIF, 1132 Thomas Jefferson Road, Forest, VA 24551. Applications may also be faxed to: (434) 525-7720. Applications must be received by the close of business on October 1, 2004.

Hunt dates muzzleloader: October 30, Nov. 1–6, Nov. 8–12

Hunt dates general firearms: Nov. 13, Nov. 15–20, Nov. 22–27, Nov. 29–Dec. 4, Dec. 6–11, 2004

Hunting Workshops–Squirrel

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will host a **squirrel** hunting workshop on the: C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Fauquier County. For registration information on workshop dates and times, contact the Fredericksburg Regional Office at (540) 899-4169

Workshop date: September 18, 2004

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will host a **squirrel** hunting workshop on the: Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Charles City County. For registration information on workshop dates and times, contact the Williamsburg Regional Office at (757) 253-7072.

Workshop date: September 11, 2004

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will host a **squirrel** hunting workshop on the: White Oak Mountain WMA in Pittsylvania County. For registration information on workshop dates and times, contact the Forest Regional Office at (434) 525-7522.

Workshop date: December 4, 2004

NOTE: For information on Managed Hunts go to the Agency Web site: www.dgif.virginia.gov : select Hunting, Managed Hunts.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

Public Ranges

by Glen Askins
Regional Wildlife Biologist

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has public sighting-in ranges available at the Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) listed below. These ranges were built to provide facilities for sportsmen to properly sight-in their firearms before going afield during hunting seasons. Range rules and hours of operation are prominently posted at each range to promote shooting safety and proper care of the facilities. No reservations are required and there are no fees. Shooters are limited to one hour of shooting when range is full. Be sure to bring your own paper targets, cardboard backing, clothespins and tape. Shooters are encouraged to help maintain the ranges by packing-out their target materials and brass for proper disposal off site. Specific hours and dates of operation, range rules, scheduled closures, travel directions and other information is posted on the Agency Web site.

NOTE: The Department reserves the right to manage use and access of these facilities as deemed appropriate.
These facilities are subject to emergency closures.

Department Sighting-In Ranges

Amelia Wildlife Management Area: Six bench - rest positions from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets; area for clay bird shooting (bring own thrower and targets); and an archery range. Pistol shooting is prohibited. Closed on Wednesdays. For information contact: Forest Regional Office; 434 / 525 - 7522.

Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area: 10 covered bench shooting positions from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets; 8 covered pistol stations from 10–50 yards. Clay target shooting is prohibited. **Note: The range will be closed from July 1 through the fall.** Consult our Web site for more information when the range will reopen. For information contact: Williamsburg Regional Office; 757 / 253 - 7072.

Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench - rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. Closed on Mondays. For information contact: Marion Regional Office; 276 / 783 - 4860.

Gathright Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench - rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. Range is closed on Mondays. For information contact: Verona Regional Office; 540 / 248 - 9360.

C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench - rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. Range is closed on Mondays. For information contact: Fredericksburg Regional Office; 540 / 899 - 4169.

Whiteoak Mountain Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench - rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. Range is closed on Mondays. For information contact: Forest Regional Office; 434 / 525 - 7522.

National Forest Shooting Ranges

The Blacksburg Shooting Range offers two facilities: an 18-position rifle/pistol for firing at stationary targets and a single position shotgun (trap) range. For information contact: New River Valley Ranger District, Blacksburg Office, 540 / 552- 4641.

The Bath County Shooting Range has 10 covered bench rests for shooting 50–100 yards. Pistols, rifles and shotguns are allowed at stationary targets. Moving targets are prohibited. For information contact: Warm Springs Ranger District, 540 / 839-2521.

The Hite Hollow Shooting Range is available for rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting at stationary targets. Moving targets are prohibited. For information contact: Deerfield Ranger District, 540 / 885- 8028.

The Low Moor Shooting Range provides 6 rifle bench rests and 3 pistol rests under a covered roof. Features include rifle range - stationary targets at 50 and 100 yards, and pistol range - stationary targets at 25 yards. Moving targets are prohibited. For information contact: James River Ranger District, 540 / 962- 2214.

The Pott's Slope Shooting Range is handicapped-accessible with a covered shooting area. There are nine lanes for rifle and pistol use with stationary targets at 25, 50 and 100 yards. For information contact: New Castle Ranger District 540 / 864 - 5195.

The West Side Shooting Range provides shooting lanes of various lengths with covered shooting benches. For more information contact: Dry River Ranger District, 540 / 432-0187.

The Wythe Shooting Range includes six 25 yard lanes and four 100-yard lanes. For more information contact: New River Valley Ranger District, 276 / 228-5551.

When visiting the National Forest, please remember firearms may be discharged for target practice only at established shooting ranges. Discharging a firearm in a developed recreation site is dangerous and prohibited. For more information contact: the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest Headquarters at 516 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, VA. 24019, or call 540 / 265-5100.

Outreach Programs and Events

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Outdoor Education Program offers exciting programs such as Becoming an Outdoors Woman® (BOW), Virginia Outdoors Weekend, Mother & Daughter Outdoors, and Women in the Outdoors (co-sponsored with the National Wild Turkey Federation) and various Game Hunts. Each of the programs offered to the public are hands-on educational activities led by enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and professional instructors in a highly supportive atmosphere.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman®

This program is designed primarily for women whose outdoor exposure has been limited. The three-day events (Friday through Sunday) offer a variety of 4-hour classes geared towards beginners. Participants can choose from shooting sports, aquatic, or non-consumptive educational courses. The courses offered may include, but are not limited to, intro to shotgun, rifle, archery, hunting techniques for game species, fly-fishing, bass fishing, boating, camping, wilderness survival and outdoor cooking. Weekends are held in rustic yet comfortable settings. Participants in the Becoming an Outdoors Woman® programs must be at least 18 years of age.

Virginia Outdoors Weekend

Designed to give the entire family a chance to add to their outdoor experience, the Virginia Outdoors Weekend is a three-day event (Friday through Sunday) taught at various locations across the state. The focus is on learning outdoor skills through hands-on courses such as, but not limited to, intro to skeet shooting, rifle, archery, hunting techniques for game species, fly-fishing, basic fishing, boating, camping, wilderness survival, outdoor cooking and many others.

Mother & Daughter Outdoors

The Mother & Daughter Outdoors program is designed primarily for women. It provides an excellent opportunity for anyone 9 years of age and above to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful in a variety of outdoor pursuits. The courses offered at this 2-3 day event are similar in content to the BOW and the Virginia Outdoors Weekend events. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Women in the Outdoors

Co-sponsored with the National Wild Turkey Federation, this program is designed primarily for women 14 and over. Participants can enjoy learning new skills, meeting people with similar interests, and getting involved in outdoor activities. These events offer classes that range from fly fishing, shooting sports, and turkey hunting to mountain biking, canoeing and bird watching. Events are held throughout the state.

JAKES

Juniors Acquiring Knowledge Ethics and Sportsmanship

Co-sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation, this nation wide program provides youth 17 years and younger with opportunities to get involved in wildlife conservation and natural resources stewardship through field days conducted by local NWTf Chapters in partnership with VDGIF. These hands-on events provide supervised, age level skill building activities in fishing, camping, hunting, archery, canoeing, tree and animal identification and many other outdoor adventure related activities. An event schedule can be found on the Virginia NWTf Web site at www.vanwtf.com.

Wheelin' Sportsmen

Sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation, local Chapters partner with VDGIF and other sportsmen's groups to provide outdoor adventures for disabled sportsmen. Contacts and event information can be found on the VDGIF Web site and the Virginia NWTf Web site at www.vanwtf.com.

Game Hunts

Game hunt events that include Squirrel Hunts, Dove Hunts, Generation and Women's Deer Hunts, and Women's Upland Game Hunts are designed for novice hunters. (See the Department's Web site for more details.)

Other events

Some other Department events offered include the Family Sea Kayaking Event, Women's Catfishing, and Wilderness Survival Weekend.

4-H Shooting Sports Program provides opportunities for youth to learn firearm safety and handling and improve shooting skills in partnership with the Department. Local Club Teams provide adult supervision, and numerous statewide events are held including a week-long camp in August at the Holiday Lake 4-H Education Center near Appomattox. Schedule of activities is available on Web site: www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/environment/shootinged/.

Holiday Lake Forestry Camp is held annually the third week of June at the 4-H Center near Appomattox in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Forestry and forest industry sponsors for teens ages 13-16. Students learn forest and wildlife management through hands-on classes and activities including habitat evaluation, tree identification, stream monitoring, timber harvesting, controlled burning, environmental protection, arborist training and a Lumberjack field day. Information on Web site: www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/environment/camp/.

For information or registration forms for any of these programs visit the Department's Web site www.dgif.virginia.gov/events/index.html or contact the Outdoor Education Outreach Coordinator at 4010 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230; (804) 367-0656 or (804)-367-1147.

Habitat Programs Available

A wide array of habitat management programs are available to Virginia landowners, hunt clubs and even urban homeowners.

The place to begin is with a plan that considers the existing habitat, what is already on your neighbor's land and the species you wish to emphasize. A good first contact is one of the Game Department's numerous publications addressing various species' needs and habitat management techniques. If you would like a more detailed plan for your acreage, the department offers free technical assistance to landowners through our District Biologists. Biologists can be contacted at any of the Department's offices listed on page 3. Biologists can often direct you to a program that will offer other assistance including financial assistance. The following programs may fit your needs.

WHIP

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a program offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U S Dept. of Agriculture. WHIP targets 4 principle areas: farm wildlife habitat, migration corridors, riparian habitats, and habitats for threatened and endangered species. It covers activities such as planting native grass nesting cover, shrub row field borders, prescribed burning and a host of other practices. Contracts last from 5-15 years and 75% cost share is available. Only permanent habitat improvements are covered (not food plots). Contact your local NRCS office for more details and to sign up.

WRP,GRP,CRP/CREP

The U. S. Department of Agriculture offers a variety of other more narrowly targeted programs that may fit your needs. The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) offers long-term or permanent protection to wetlands via one-time, up front payments and up to 100% cost share for any restoration work needed. The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) provides the same but very limited opportunity for grasslands. Contact your local NRCS for both programs. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and its Virginia Enhancement (CREP) offer 10-15 year agreements with annual per acre payments and 50% cost share to establish a cover, which can be tailored to the wildlife you wish to attract. CREP is mainly aimed at streamside plantings and protection and buffers on the lower portions of agricultural fields with similar agreements and cost share. Contact USDA or Conservation District offices for information on these programs.



Wetland Restoration

There are several programs that offer technical and cost share assistance for wetland restoration, enhancement and management. Since there are usually permitting and other technical considerations, you should start by contacting the Department's Wetlands Project leader at 757-253-7072 for a technical appraisal of your particular situation.

Seed Programs

Members of conservation organizations such as the National Wild Turkey Federation and Quail Unlimited may be able to obtain certain food plot seed at discounted rates. Contact your local chapter officers for details.

Urban and Suburban Habitats

The Game Department offers a program for homeowners to assist them in improving their properties for wildlife called Habitat At Home®. This program offers information and education on creating and improving wildlife habitat around homes. Contact (804) 367-6989 for more information. The Alliance for Chesapeake Bay also offers BayScaping®, a program promoting water quality, wildlife habitat and reduced use of mowing, fertilizers and pesticides. Contact them at (804) 775-0951.

And finally, there is a list of suppliers of hard-to-find plant materials on the Department's Web site, as well as a host of other information that you might find helpful.

2004–2005 Hunting Seasons Quick Reference

Note: For specific details on seasons and areas, see pages 22–34 in this booklet.

Big Game

Deer

Archery

Statewide (Early) – October 2–November 12
West (Late) – November 29–January 1
Chesapeake, Suffolk (east) & Virginia Beach –
December 1–January 1
Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Patrick & Pittsylvania (west) –
December 13–January 1
Special Urban Archery – September 18–October 1 and
January 3–March 26 (special restrictions apply)

Muzzleloader

East (Early) – October 30–November 12
West (Early) – November 6–12
West & certain counties east (Late) – December 18–
January 1
Chesapeake & Virginia Beach (Late) –
December 18–January 1

Firearms

East – November 13–January 1
West – November 13–27
Chesapeake, Suffolk (east) & Virginia Beach –
October 1–November 30
Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Patrick & Pittsylvania (west) –
November 13–December 11

Turkey

Fall

Archery – October 2–November 6

Firearms

Generally – October 25–November 6, November 25,
and December 6–January 1.
Prince George, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Surry,
Sussex and Buchanan – October 25–November 6
and November 25
Certain counties in Northern Neck, Middle and Lower
Peninsula areas – October 25–November 6,
November 25, and December 6–18

Spring Gobbler

(Statewide) General – April 9–May 14
Youth Day (Statewide, age 15 and younger) – April 2

Bear

Archery

(Statewide) – October 9–November 6

Muzzleloading

(Certain counties) – November 9–12

Firearms

West (certain counties) – November 22–January 1
Southwest (certain counties) – December 6–18
Chesapeake, Suffolk, Virginia Beach – November 1–
January 1

Hound Training

Certain counties – August 28–September 25

Small Game & Furbearers

Bobcat

November 1–January 31

Coyote

Continuous open season

Crow

August 21–March 19 (On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays,
and Saturdays only)

Fox

Firearms (certain counties) – November 1–January 31

Dogs Only (except National Forest and certain public
lands) – Continuous open season

Groundhog

Continuous open season

Grouse

October 25–February 12 (west of I-95)

Opossum

October 15–March 10

Quail & Pheasant

November 8–January 31

Rabbit

November 1–February 14

Raccoon

Firearms – October 15–March 10

Chase Season (east except National Forest, west private
lands only) – August 1–May 31

Skunk

Continuous open season for striped skunks only

Squirrel

Archery – October 2–November 6

Firearms – September 4–January 31

Remove this page for a
quick reference to season dates
and sunrise-sunset times.

Sunrise and Sunset Timetable Richmond, Virginia (All Years)

Sunrise-sunset times below are Eastern Standard Time
Add one hour for Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Day	JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG		SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)
1	7:24	5:02	7:13	5:33	6:41	6:03	5:55	6:32	5:15	6:59	4:50	7:24	4:52	7:34	5:13	7:18	5:39	6:39	6:04	5:53	6:34	5:12	7:05	4:52
2	7:24	5:03	7:12	5:34	6:40	6:04	5:54	6:33	5:13	7:00	4:50	7:25	4:52	7:34	5:14	7:17	5:40	6:37	6:05	5:52	6:35	5:10	7:06	4:51
3	7:24	5:03	7:11	5:35	6:38	6:05	5:52	6:34	5:12	7:01	4:49	7:26	4:53	7:34	5:15	7:16	5:41	6:36	6:06	5:50	6:36	5:09	7:07	4:51
4	7:24	5:04	7:11	5:37	6:37	6:06	5:51	6:34	5:11	7:02	4:49	7:26	4:53	7:34	5:15	7:15	5:42	6:34	6:07	5:49	6:37	5:08	7:08	4:51
5	7:25	5:05	7:10	5:38	6:36	6:07	5:49	6:35	5:10	7:02	4:49	7:27	4:54	7:34	5:16	7:14	5:43	6:33	6:08	5:47	6:38	5:07	7:09	4:51
6	7:25	5:06	7:09	5:39	6:34	6:08	5:48	6:36	5:09	7:03	4:48	7:28	4:54	7:34	5:17	7:13	5:43	6:31	6:09	5:46	6:39	5:06	7:10	4:51
7	7:25	5:07	7:08	5:40	6:33	6:09	5:47	6:37	5:08	7:04	4:48	7:28	4:55	7:33	5:18	7:11	5:44	6:30	6:10	5:44	6:40	5:05	7:10	4:51
8	7:24	5:08	7:07	5:41	6:31	6:10	5:45	6:38	5:07	7:05	4:48	7:29	4:55	7:33	5:19	7:10	5:45	6:28	6:11	5:43	6:41	5:05	7:11	4:51
9	7:24	5:09	7:06	5:42	6:30	6:11	5:44	6:39	5:06	7:06	4:48	7:29	4:56	7:33	5:20	7:09	5:46	6:27	6:12	5:41	6:42	5:04	7:12	4:51
10	7:24	5:10	7:05	5:43	6:28	6:12	5:42	6:40	5:05	7:07	4:48	7:30	4:56	7:32	5:21	7:08	5:47	6:25	6:12	5:40	6:43	5:03	7:13	4:51
11	7:24	5:11	7:04	5:44	6:27	6:13	5:41	6:41	5:04	7:08	4:48	7:30	4:57	7:32	5:21	7:07	5:48	6:24	6:13	5:38	6:44	5:02	7:14	4:51
12	7:24	5:12	7:03	5:45	6:25	6:13	5:39	6:42	5:03	7:09	4:48	7:31	4:58	7:32	5:22	7:06	5:48	6:22	6:14	5:37	6:45	5:01	7:14	4:52
13	7:24	5:13	7:01	5:46	6:24	6:14	5:38	6:43	5:02	7:10	4:48	7:31	4:48	7:31	5:23	7:05	5:49	6:21	6:15	5:35	6:47	5:00	7:15	4:52
14	7:23	5:14	7:00	5:47	6:23	6:15	5:36	6:43	5:01	7:10	4:48	7:31	4:59	7:31	5:24	7:03	5:50	6:19	6:16	5:34	6:48	5:00	7:16	4:52
15	7:23	5:15	6:59	5:48	6:21	6:16	5:35	6:44	5:00	7:11	4:48	7:32	5:00	7:30	5:25	7:02	5:51	6:18	6:17	5:33	6:49	4:59	7:17	4:52
16	7:23	5:16	6:58	5:50	6:20	6:17	5:34	6:45	5:00	7:12	4:48	7:32	5:00	7:30	5:26	7:01	5:52	6:16	6:18	5:31	6:50	4:58	7:17	4:53
17	7:22	5:17	6:57	5:51	6:18	6:18	5:32	6:46	4:59	7:13	4:48	7:33	5:01	7:29	5:27	7:00	5:53	6:15	6:19	5:30	6:51	4:58	7:18	4:53
18	7:22	5:18	6:56	5:52	6:17	6:19	5:31	6:47	4:58	7:14	4:48	7:33	5:02	7:29	5:27	6:58	5:53	6:13	6:20	5:29	6:52	4:57	7:19	4:53
19	7:22	5:19	6:54	5:53	6:15	6:20	5:30	6:48	4:57	7:15	4:48	7:33	5:03	7:28	5:28	6:57	5:54	6:11	6:21	5:27	6:53	4:56	7:19	4:54
20	7:21	5:20	6:53	5:54	6:14	6:21	5:28	6:49	4:56	7:16	4:48	7:33	5:03	7:27	5:29	6:56	5:55	6:10	6:22	5:26	6:54	4:56	7:20	4:54
21	7:21	5:21	6:52	5:55	6:12	6:22	5:27	6:50	4:56	7:16	4:48	7:34	5:04	7:27	5:30	6:54	5:56	6:08	6:23	5:25	6:55	4:55	7:20	4:55
22	7:20	5:22	6:51	5:56	6:10	6:23	5:26	6:51	4:55	7:17	4:48	7:34	5:05	7:26	5:31	6:53	5:57	6:07	6:24	5:23	6:56	4:55	7:21	4:55
23	7:20	5:23	6:49	5:57	6:09	6:24	5:24	6:52	4:54	7:18	4:49	7:34	5:06	7:25	5:32	6:52	5:58	6:05	6:25	5:22	6:57	4:54	7:21	4:56
24	7:19	5:24	6:48	5:58	6:07	6:25	5:23	6:53	4:54	7:19	4:49	7:34	5:06	7:25	5:33	6:50	5:58	6:04	6:26	5:21	6:58	4:54	7:22	4:56
25	7:18	5:25	6:47	5:59	6:06	6:25	5:22	6:53	4:53	7:19	4:49	7:34	5:07	7:24	5:33	6:49	5:59	6:02	6:27	5:20	6:59	4:53	7:22	4:57
26	7:18	5:27	6:45	6:00	6:04	6:26	5:21	6:54	4:53	7:20	4:50	7:34	5:08	7:23	5:34	6:47	6:00	6:01	6:28	5:18	7:00	4:53	7:22	4:57
27	7:17	5:28	6:44	6:01	6:03	6:27	5:19	6:55	4:52	7:21	4:50	7:34	5:09	7:22	5:35	6:46	6:01	5:59	6:29	5:17	7:01	4:53	7:23	4:58
28	7:16	5:29	6:43	6:02	6:01	6:28	5:18	6:56	4:52	7:22	4:50	7:34	5:10	7:21	5:36	6:45	6:02	5:58	6:30	5:16	7:02	4:52	7:23	4:59
29	7:16	5:30	6:42	6:03	6:00	6:29	5:17	6:57	4:51	7:22	4:51	7:34	5:10	7:20	5:37	6:43	6:03	5:56	6:31	5:15	7:03	4:52	7:23	4:59
30	7:15	5:31			5:58	6:30	5:16	6:58	4:51	7:23	4:51	7:34	5:11	7:20	5:38	6:42	6:04	5:55	6:32	5:14	7:04	4:52	7:24	5:00
31	7:14	5:32			5:57	6:31			4:50	7:24			5:12	7:19	5:38	6:40			6:33	5:13			7:24	5:01

Apply corrections below to Richmond sunrise-sunset times
to obtain official times at other Virginia locations.

Location	Correction
Newport News	-5 minutes
Norfolk	-5 minutes
Roanoke	+10 minutes
Tazewell	+16 minutes
Williamsburg	-3 minutes
Winchester	+3 minutes

Location	Correction
Bristol	+19 minutes
Cape Charles	-6 minutes
Charlottesville	+4 minutes
Chincoteague	-8 minutes
Danville	+8 minutes
Fredericksburg	0 minutes

“The Tradition Lives On”



Edition of 250 s/n – 19” x 24”
Edition of 50 AP – 19” x 24”
From the original water color
Unframed s/n \$45 + \$15 S & H
Unframed AP \$65 + \$15 S & H

To order send check payable to *Treasurer of Virginia* to VDGIF, Art Print, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230 or order online at Department’s Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Protecting wildlife and fisheries throughout the Commonwealth is a practice that has been mandated since 1916 when the Virginia Game Commission was first established.

In this memorable print our artist, Sharon Guyton Lalik has captured the history of Virginia’s wildlife and fisheries for all of us who value the splendor of our beautiful natural resources.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Deer Hunters Association (VDHA) are making these limited edition prints available to the public. Each print will come with a certificate of authenticity and is suitable for framing. All net proceeds from this project will be donated to the Lee Roy Gordon Scholarship Grant and earmarked for white-tailed deer research in Virginia.

To learn more about the artist and the Lee Roy Gordon Scholarship Grant visit the VDHA’s Web site at www.virginiadeerhunters.org.

Hunters for the Hungry

Our 2004 Goal – 325,000 pounds
Will you help us reach our goal by donating venison
and/or dollars?

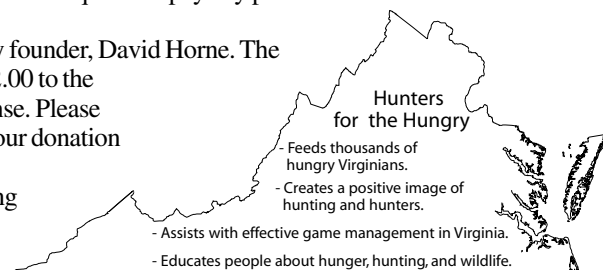
Hunters for the Hungry receives donated deer from successful hunters. Funds are raised to cover the costs of professional processing. The venison is distributed to the needy across the state.

This past season 308,274 pounds of venison was distributed. Over 1.9 million pounds or 7.9 million servings of venison have been distributed in Virginia since 1991.

Each \$35.00 contribution allows us to accept another deer. Every dollar donated aids our effort to combat hunger and promote the tradition of hunting. Hunters donating an entire deer are not required to pay any part of the processing fee.

Legislation was passed in 2003 in honor of Hunters for the Hungry founder, David Horne. The David Horne Hunger Relief Bill gives you the opportunity to donate \$2.00 to the Hunters for the Hungry program when you purchase your hunting license. Please check the donation box and give your \$2.00. One hundred percent of your donation will go to providing venison to the hungry.

You can make a difference to the hungry and to the future of hunting in Virginia. For additional information call 1-800-352-HUNT (4868), or e-mail: hunt4hungry@cs.com, or visit the Web site at www.h4hungry.org.



**Subscribe to
Virginia Wildlife Magazine!
1-800-710-9369 or
go online at www.dgif.virginia.gov
12 great issues for \$12.95
or 2 years for \$23.95**

**To Report Wildlife Violations
call: 1-800-237-5712 or
e-mail: wildcrime@dgif.state.va.us**

A game warden can also be reached by calling your local Sheriff's Office or Police Department. When reporting try to get as much information as possible, such as:

What happened.

Where did it happen, be as specific as possible

Who was involved, describe persons (names if known) vehicles (license numbers are crucial), names of other witnesses.

When did it happen.

Don't allow the actions of a few outlaws to tarnish the reputation of Virginia's sportsmen and women!

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE OUTDOOR CATALOG



NEW for 2004

Limited Edition Collectors Plates

Our first in a series of *Virginia Wildlife* limited edition Collectors Plates. This collectable is titled "Winter Comfort" and is taken from an original artwork by Bob Henley. Each plate is individually serial numbered and has the year of issue identified on the back of the plate. Price \$22.95 Item # VW-500

Limited Edition Steins →

Our first in a series of *Virginia Wildlife* limited edition steins. This companion piece to our Collectors Plate shown above is also individually serial numbered and has the year of issue identified on the reverse side of the stein. Price \$16.95 Item # VW-501



Yellow Lab Pups Tapestry Throw ↑

Created from a photograph by Virginia photographer Dwight Dyke, these five Lab pups lay about in the warmth of their basket alongside tools of their trade. This tapestry throw created exclusively for VDGIF is triple jacquard woven of 100% cotton. Machine washable and measures approximately 52" x 69" — \$39.95 Item # VW-515



Fall Buck Throw ↑

52" x 69" triple jacquard woven of 100% cotton, Machine Washable — \$39.95 Item # VW-511



Winter Songbirds Throw ↑

52" x 69" triple jacquard woven of 100% cotton, Machine Washable — \$39.95 Item # VW-507

Down From the North Throw →

52" x 69" triple jacquard woven of 100% cotton, Machine Washable — \$39.95 Item # VW-509





2004 Limited Edition Virginia Wildlife Collector's Knife

This year's knife has been custom made for us by Buck Knives. Every facet of this knife indicates that it will be a treasured collectable. From its distinctive handle with gold lettering and brass bolsters to the knife blade engraved with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries logo. Each knife is individually serial numbered and comes in a decorative, custom wood box. Limited quantity of 400 has been produced.

Item #VW-403 \$85.00 each



Buckles

Our bass and duck belt buckle collection is crafted of solid pewter with *Virginia Wildlife* engraved at the bottom. Each buckle comes in a custom gift box with the distinctive VDGIF log displayed. —\$9.95 each

Item #VW -502 Bass VW-503 Duck

NEW for 2004

Our *Virginia Wildlife* collection of Pulsar Watches by Seiko

Your choice \$59.00 each or 2 for \$100.00



From the Ladies Pulsar Collection. This attractive watch as a gold tone bracelet with gold tone hands and markers on a champagne dial. Water resistant.

Item # VW-302



From the Pulsar Night-fall Line. TiCN Plating, Gold tone crown, hands and markers; black dial. Water resistant.

Item # VW-301



Man's Wrist Watch. Stainless steel bracelet, luminous hands and markers, blue sunburst dial. One way rotating elapsing timing bezel. Water resistant.

Item # VW-300



Book Clock

This decorative book style clock is crafted of solid cherry wood, beautifully engraved with a vivid wildlife scene on the book side of the clock. This clock face is of world décor, a collector's delight. Clock is 5 1/2" X 8 1/2" when opened. —\$29.95

Item # VW-303



Collectors Patches

The first set in a series to be issued each year. Our 2003 edition has been custom designed exclusively for VDGIF. One patch displays a deer in a woodland setting, the other a black bear mother and cub. This first edition is sure to become a valued collectable. \$9.95 set of two. Item # VW-505

Commemorative Collectors Coin

Each coin is engraved with the original artwork of a black bear cub, provided by wildlife artist Spike Knuth. Packaged in an attractive gift box. *Limited quantity available.* —\$9.95

Item # VW-504



NEW for the Art Lover or Collector

Framed 16" x 20" prints of our "Winter in Virginia" original paintings.



Virginia Wildlife Greeting Cards and Prints

Renowned wildlife artist Spike Knuth has captured the unique lives of Virginia's wildlife. A cardinal, grouse, wild turkey and white-tailed deer are featured in this first set of greeting cards. Each box contains 12 cards and envelopes; three cards per image for only —\$9.95 Item # VW-212

Also for the art lover are framable, 11" X 14" prints of each of the "Winter in Virginia" original paintings. The set of four prints is available for \$19.95. Item # VW-56

Each print is custom framed and matted. These attractive prints will brighten any room and are available for a limited time at —\$39.95 each.

Item # VW-211

Please indicate: Cardinal, Turkey, Deer or Grouse



Virginia Wildlife T-Shirts

T-shirt with Eagle, available in Black, Navy and Teal. \$12.95 each
Item # VW-100



VW-103



VW-104

Each shirt is 100% cotton and embroidered with the Virginia Wildlife logo, and a largemouth bass or white-tailed deer. Please specify size: M, L, XL, XXL and color: Grey, Navy, Tan, Teal or Black—\$12.95
Largemouth bass - Item # VW-103 White-tailed Deer - Item # VW-104



VW-109

VW-110

VW-111

NEW Denim Shirts

100% cotton, pre-washed, long sleeve denim shirts with embroidered logo. Please specify size: M, L, XL, XXL—\$19.95 each

Denim shirt with Cardinal Item # VW-109

Denim shirt with Eagle Item # VW-110

Denim shirt with Trout Item # VW-111

VW-118

VW-116

VW-113

VW-114

VW-112

VW-120

Virginia Wildlife Caps

Hats off to the new Virginia Wildlife caps that feature three unique designs. Each cap is 100% cotton, size adjustable and embroidered with the Virginia Wildlife magazine logo. — \$11.95 each

- High profile - deer - Item # VW-118
 Low profile - deer - Item # VW-117
 High profile - bass - Item # VW-116
 Low profile - bass - Item # VW-115
- High profile - Camo With Black Letters - Item # VW-113
 High profile - Blaze Orange - Item # VW-114
 High profile - Camo With Tan Letters - Item # VW-112
 High profile - Virginia Wildlife - Item # VW-120
 Low profile - Virginia Wildlife - Item # VW-119

VW-121

VW-122

VW-123

VW-124

NEW Virginia Wildlife Hats

Our new Virginia Wildlife hats are available in 100% cotton or in denim and are size adjustable. These attractive hats have been embroidered with our Virginia Wildlife magazine logo and feature either an eagle or trout for the wildlife and fishing enthusiasts. Hats are available in high profile. Check out our new low profile denim hats. These hats look great with our new denim shirts. — \$11.95 each

- Navy Hat with Trout Item # VW-121
- Black Hat with Eagle Item # VW-122
- Denim Hat with Eagle Item # VW-123
- Denim Hat with Trout Item # VW-124

Item #	Name of Item	Qty.	Size	Color	Price	Total Price
Make checks payable to <i>Treasurer of Virginia</i> and mail to: Virginia Wildlife Catalog, 4010 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230 Credit card orders can be mailed in or you can call (804) 367-2569					Subtotal	
					Shipping and Handling	6.95
					Total	

Payment Method

☐ check or money order
 ☐ VISA
 ☐ MasterCard

Account Number
 Expiration

Signature
 Please Print Name
 Daytime Phone Number

Shipping Information

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Changes to the Department's Regulation Review Process

Prior to 2004, VDGIF-administered hunting regulations and fishing regulations were reviewed and amended by the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries separately every two years. Hunting regulations were reviewed in odd-numbered years, fishing and wildlife diversity regulations in even-numbered years. The Board has changed this process merging the two biennial reviews into a single review process for all VDGIF-administered regulations. The first combined review is scheduled for the March, August, and October 2005 Board meetings (dates to be announced). Regulation amendments made then will take effect in July 2006. Under the new process in 2005 the public will gain an extended opportunity to review VDGIF staff recommendations for regulation changes before the Board acts to propose amendments.

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

Attention Hunters

Checking your deer and spring turkey
just got easier with

1-866-GOT-GAME
(1-866-468-4263)

1. Notch your big game license prior to moving the animal. **Do not remove the tag from your license!**
2. Check your deer or spring turkey by calling 1-866-468-4263 or take it to a check station.
3. Write check card number or telephone confirmation number on the license tag next to the notch.
4. Checking your deer or spring turkey by the Telephone Checking System may require that you create a Telephone Check Card. (See page 20-21 for details).

*Thank you for supporting wildlife management
in Virginia through hunting.*